



WOLVES and DUNDEE TEAM GROUPS **WORLD CUP ACTION**

SHOOT!

3rd OCTOBER, 1981

STAR SPOT

Steve Perryman

**—'WE'LL
GET IT
RIGHT'**

**FREE
INSIDE:** **TEAM-TABS**
for the Third
and Fourth Divisions

25p

**THE PLAYERS'
VERDICTS ON
FRANK
STAPLETON**

**CLOUGH'S
THREAT
TO BURNS**

**SUPER
SOCCER
CLOCKS
TO BE WON!**

*Ipswich Town's Dutch midfielder
Frans Thijssen (left) moves in to
tackle Iain Munro of Sunderland.*





IS Frank Stapleton value for money? Arsenal valued him at £2 million, but the Transfer Tribunal disagreed, placing a fee of £1.1million on the Eire striker. Will Manchester United's new star be a hit at Old Trafford? We asked the players for their verdicts. The vote was unanimous . . .

ground play to such an extent that he is dangerous in the box in any situation now.

He has an incredible work rate and any defender knowing him will confirm that. Frank is such a fierce competitor that, if things do not go right for him immediately he will work at it until he gets it right.



MARTIN BUCHAN
(Manchester United)

I HAVE been marking him in training sessions and have found him particularly elusive. He is

STAPLETON'S



ALAN SUNDERLAND
(Arsenal)

I AM sure Frank will do well at United as he is just the man they need up front. He is such an unselfish player that many of his new team-mates will benefit from his play.

At Highbury when I played alongside him I always believed his main strength was his heading ability. But he worked hard on his

always making new positions for himself and rarely stays in one place very long.

A defender marking Frank may feel he has got him picked up, but within a second he can be off again and you've lost him.

One thing that I have noticed is how good at shielding the ball Frank is. He is a very strong player and obviously that helps him with this particular aspect of his game.

I always remember when we played Arsenal Frank was a difficult customer to handle. Alongside Alan Sunderland he formed a successful attacking spearhead and I am sure he can form the same sort of relationship with Garry Birtles.

Frank is very deceptive with his little flicks and touches which are guaranteed to have defenders in trouble in the penalty-area.

Despite our poor start to the new season, Frank has already found his goalscoring touch, and I'm certain he will keep producing the goods to take us up the League table.

'I need Birtles' confesses United star

FRANK Stapleton is a great believer in soccer partnerships — which is why he is desperate to form a quick understanding with Garry Birtles at Manchester United.

Says Stapleton: "Apart from the goalkeeper, football is a game played in pairs — the two full-backs, two centre-halves, two men in central midfield, two wide — and two central strikers."

Stapleton himself had two famous partnerships at Arsenal with Malcolm Macdonald and Alan Sunderland.

"I was just establishing myself when I played with Macdonald. I just did what I was told and worked very hard.

"When Macdonald was injured, Alan Sunderland came into the team and we hit it off straightaway."

Now Stapleton hopes that he and his million pound partner Garry Birtles will be able to lead United's quest for success.



JOE CORRIGAN
(Manchester City)

FRANK is undoubtedly one of the best forwards in the business at the moment. How he will fit in at United I do not really know as there is a world of difference between their style of play and Arsenal's.

He may have difficulty carrying such a heavy price tag and there is also the added weight and pressure of all the razzamatazz with a big transfer.

The fans at Old Trafford expect a

lot and sometimes feel they have a divine right to win things.

Having said all that he will have to uproot himself, buy a house in the North and settle down — which is a big upheaval. However, he is a born goalscorer, who thinks quickly and is powerful in the air.

You could not really wish for more in a striker. He will always be a threat to defences because he is alert and sharp in the box. Give him half a chance and you'll pay the penalty.

The key to his success, though, will be how he settles down.

Although Garry Birtles is still struggling to score goals, I am convinced he will begin to thrive with the talented former Arsenal centre-forward alongside.

There has been a lot of pressure on the United new boys to do well, particularly after our own Trevor Francis netted twice on his debut for us at Stoke.

But Frank is a top-class striker, and he won't let the performances of his rivals worry him. I'm sure he'll soon settle in and make a big impact at Old Trafford.

United 2-1 on the opening day of the season, he will certainly be among the goals.

He is extremely good in the air and deceptively quick around the box. He is always a fine competitor without being a physical player and he's absolutely deadly around the penalty-area.

I would imagine he would settle down fairly quickly because he is a good player and they do not change by joining another club.



CYRILLE REGIS
(West Brom)

HE IS without doubt one of the best centre-forwards in the country. I have a lot of admiration for him because he is very courageous as well as being strong in the air and skilful with his ground play.

Being a centre-forward myself I know the difficulties and Frank is certainly amongst the best.

He had a good track record with Arsenal and I am sure after an initial settling down period he will be banging the goals in fairly regularly.

I hope he does well, but obviously there are bound to be problems when you are transferred to another club.

However, he is a natural striker and goalscorer and because of that I do not foresee problems for him at Old Trafford.

Surprisingly enough, I feel that Garry Birtles is still under more pressure at United than Frank, and this will help the later arrival at Old Trafford. I just hope Garry can justify his fee, too.

Career details

(Up to and including Saturday, September 12)

League appearances: 229. 77 League goals. International: 26 times for the Republic of Ireland.

Clubs on the Continent were also keen to sign a player whom his new manager Ron Atkinson describes as: "The best centre-forward in Europe." Many people would agree with that. "I was relieved when I finally signed on the dotted line for United and knew that I could concentrate on playing football again."

"Over all, I think I've more chance of winning things at United. The fact that they're willing to spend the amount they did on me shows that they want to build the club up."

Stapleton's wife was possibly more delighted by his move than he was. She's from Manchester and Frank says: "She was pleased to be coming home, although she didn't put any pressure on me to choose Old Trafford."

"My move could cause a bit of an upset in the family, though — my father-in-law is a City fan!"



PAUL DYSON
(Coventry City)

I HAVE no doubt that when Birtles and Stapleton hit it off together they will form a lethal combination. When Stapleton settles down their partnership will blossom and a few sides are going to be in for a rough ride from United, especially at Old Trafford.

Given the right kind of service, which he did not get when we beat

slowly from the back and believed in a lot of possession. Here, they play faster, more direct. So the ball comes to you quicker and you receive it with a lot more pressure on."

It took an independent tribunal to decide that the fee Arsenal should receive from United for Stapleton was £900,000. With VAT and other bits and pieces, that made it a million pounds deal.

Yet ironically, United could have had the player for nothing as a schoolboy. "I came to Old Trafford for trials but they weren't sure about me. They said they wanted to have another look at me."

"In the meantime, I joined Arsenal and United signed another lad. I think he's playing in Australia now."

Coming from Dublin, United has always had a very special place in Stapleton's heart. "To people there, United are the greatest."

Get back to basics

THE old chestnut accusing footballers of not playing well for England because they earn too much money was rolled out as an excuse for England's disastrous World Cup qualifying result in Norway.

No lesser men than Sir Stanley Rous, former President of FIFA and former secretary of the Football Association, and F.A. Chairman Bert Millichip believe money is at the root of English football's crisis at international level.

Mr Millichip said: "It is not helping our game when players go on the pitch thinking about how much they earn instead of how to win matches."

With respect, that's bunkum.

Do they really believe that Kevin Keegan paused for a second to think about pounds and pence? Or Ray Clemence, Phil Thompson, Mick Mills, Trevor Francis or any other England player who participated in the most miserable night since Finland drew with Poland at Wembley in 1973.

SHOOT view!

Nobody mentioned footballers were overpaid when England beat the Hungarians so handsomely.

England's problems have little to do with money. The root cause of their failure to beat Norway is simpler than that.

The truth is the players do not possess the mastery of a football that other countries enjoy.

They cannot shoot, and if they do, they cannot propel the ball with the same accuracy and power of other countries.

The over-coached, methodical build-ups are predictable, lacking imagination, flair and the surprise that sends defences into chaos.

They lack the 'killer' instinct in front of goal.

They lack the pace of someone like Jacobsen, the Norwegian striker, who ran England's defence ragged in Oslo.

It is frightening to listen to television commentators questioning the commitment of players.

Bobby Moore would have wept if some of his England World Cup winning team had not tried.

To be fair to England's miserable outfit in Oslo, they tried like mad out there even if their attitude could have been questioned in other matches.

The sad truth is that they are just not good enough.

They no longer rule the world, and for our commentators to describe such emergent soccer nations as Norway as "no hoppers" is an insult to the progress they have made.

England must rethink their game from top to bottom. Go back to the basics; ball control, shooting, heading, tackling and all the other skills that men such as Bobby Charlton had in abundance.

Only then will they stand a chance of qualifying for the 1986 World Cup in Colombia.

With the acquisition of Stapleton, Garry Birtles' (above) fortunes could change.

"It will take a bit of time to get used to Garry and the way the team play. I said when I signed that it's not a question of the team changing to fit my needs. I've got to adapt to them."

"The style is different to what I've been used to. Arsenal played it out

Coventry star's risk

RUDI KAISER, England's latest Dutch import, knows he has a lot to do to win over the Coventry fans.

Because City's last foreign buy, the Belgian Roger van Gool, who cost £250,000 from Cologne, never came to terms with the First Division, despite his international pedigree.

Kaiser has played for Holland's Under-21 team, is 20-years-old and was signed from Belgian club Antwerp for £50,000 — City will pay a further £50,000 if they wish to retain him at the end of the season.

Kaiser says: "I've taken a risk, but I'm sure it was the right decision."

"I have to prove myself. I turned down two Belgian clubs to join Coventry because I like English football so much. It's faster than in Holland or Belgium with more

SUPPORTERS of Scottish First Division Clydebank won't have much to pay for their football this season. The club will be charging £1 for adults and 50p for children for League matches at their recently completed all-seater ground. And female fans will pay nothing. This means a family of three would pay only £1.50 for a match — surely the cheapest admission prices in Britain.

emphasis on attack."

Kaiser was born in Amsterdam. Go Ahead Eagles were his first professional club, but he soon came to the attention of Ajax. He made a handful of first team appearances, including the European Cup, but became frustrated by being substitute.

He jumped at the chance of going to Antwerp for a year on loan and was even voted their Player of the Year. Then a new coach arrived and this, coupled with Kaiser's military service, interrupted his progress.

With all that behind him Kaiser now hopes to gain a regular place in the Sky Blues' forward line.

STEVE LOVES ALBION

STEVE MACKENZIE'S shock summer move from Manchester City to West Brom left a host of City fans shaking their heads in disbelief and the player stunned.

But smooth midfield general Mackenzie has soon recovered and he is now bubbling with enthusiasm over his new club.

He claims: "There is so much footballing talent here and the style of play suits me. We are playing 4-4-2 this season but that doesn't mean we will be negative."

"The midfield players all like to get forward and put the emphasis on attack. I am looking forward to a lot of things here at The Hawthorns, among them playing European football, which is one of the reasons I was willing to join them when the move was rushed through."



BRUM GOING PLACES

IPSWICH manager Bobby Robson, first to recruit new talent from Holland, thinks Birmingham City are on to a winner in also going Double Dutch.

When Robson's side earned a 1-1 draw at St Andrews in the second game of the season it was an historic occasion — the first time four Dutchmen had been on the field in a Football League game.

Afterwards Robson said: "Everyone knows how big a part Arnold Muhren and Frans Thijssen have played in our success since they joined us. Now I think Tony van Mierlo (right) and Bud Brocken could do the same for Birmingham."

"Van Mierlo has electric pace and is good in the air, while Brocken has terrific balance, is tricky on the ball and gets some great crosses in. If they can maintain the form they showed against us there won't be any danger of Birmingham getting into trouble this season. In fact, I think they could surprise a few people."

Birmingham paid less than £300,000 for the pair from Willem II. Their double act is extended away from St Andrews because they are sharing a house in the Knowle area.



THE joke around Ibrox is that Derek Johnstone could be challenging Jim Stewart for the goalkeeper's jersey.

Derek showed his versatility for the reserves against the club's schoolboy signings in a full-scale practice game when he volunteered to go in goal to replace Gordon Marshall, out of action with a broken leg.

And Derek proved a big hit between the posts.

A FEATURE of Luton Town's exciting play this season has been the long-range shooting of Raddy Antic.

After a recent game a journalist remarked to Town boss David Pleat that "Antic certainly likes to whack 'em outside the box."

Pleat misinterpreted this and diplomatically defended Antic by saying: "I'd prefer to call it the art of obstructing European style."

Palace plans

AMBITIOUS Crystal Palace announce extensive rebuilding plans at Selhurst Park.

The old guest room has been extended, almost doubled in size with the Press room included. Downstairs, the players lounge has been integrated into a larger and better equipped Glaziers Club. Seven Executive boxes have been built at the back of the stand, and before the season began, five of the boxes had been sold, at a cost of £5,000 each for the season.

A new Press room and re-sited Press box has also been added, and future plans include provision for squash courts and a snooker lounge.

Arsenal baffled by transfer

ALMOST two months after Frank Stapleton has signed for Manchester United, Arsenal chairman Denis Hill-Wood still doesn't know the real reason for the Republic of Ireland star's departure from Highbury.

The 25-year-old striker said he wanted a new challenge — usually interpreted as more money.

But Hill-Wood says: "No, I can't believe it was a matter of cash. I don't think United are paying him as much as we were offering."

"If they told the truth to the independent tribunal — and I know what they were told — then I worked it out Frank would be worse-off at United."

"We offered Frank more than you'd think was possible, yet he wouldn't even talk about it."

FRANNIE'S FINE FILLY

FRANNIE LEE was a winner as a player. As a businessman he has built-up a thriving paper company in Lancashire. And now the former England striker is having success as a racehorse owner.

His filly, Marquessa D'Howfen, won £4,832 prize money at York recently and Lee also picked up an extra £292 in a side bet.

"I bought the filly for ten thousand guineas. I just backed my own judgment," says Lee. "She's now 50-1 for next year's 1,000 Guineas."

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Captain Fantastic

ONE of the easiest tasks this season for Brighton manager Mike Bailey was to appoint a new captain following the transfer of Brian Horton to Luton.

"Steve Foster (right) was a natural choice," says Bailey. "He has a certain presence about him... a really commanding figure and I feel the extra responsibility will help him."

"On and off the field Steve's a good organiser. If we have, say, a golf tournament chances are Steve's the man behind it."

"Because of his size, if Steve says something others take notice. He always gives 100 per cent and was delighted with the appointment."



● **IT'S THE** quiet ones you need to worry about. Pat Jennings, Arsenal's softly spoken Irishman, soaks David O'Leary and Brian McDermott at Highbury in a sky-larking finale to a training session.

'RON'S FREEZING US OUT'

DOES RON GREENWOOD have a bias towards Southern players? Sunderland manager Alan Durban believes so.

"It seems the closer a player gets to London, the greater his chances are of international recognition," he says. "The North seems to be frozen out."

As a former Welsh international Durban (left) can claim to be a neutral in such matters.

Yet one look at the three big North-East clubs doesn't reveal any possible candidates for Greenwood's team.

If Durban produces the players, the England manager will be up at Roker like a shot.



NEWS DESK

Compiled by
BILL DAY



Mullery's video show

CHARLTON players will become TV fanatics on Monday lunchtimes.

New boss Alan Mullery will video record every home game so the players can see what they did wrong — or right — during matches.

Mullery said: "When you tell the players they haven't done too well, half believe you and half don't. This way they can see for themselves."

And Middlesbrough boss Bobby Murdoch also taught his players a lesson by running a video recording of the team's 3-1 defeat by Spurs on the coach carrying the players to the game at Liverpool.

"I hope it embarrasses them," said Murdoch. It did. Liverpool were held to a 1-1 draw.

A WINNER — that's Pontin's soccer camp

SOCCER COACHING at holiday camps is becoming a boom industry and several Pontin's establishments could be running courses next summer.

Bertie Mee, assistant manager of Second Division Watford and chief coach at the first "Youth Football Coaching Week" at Pontin's Tower Beach camp at Prestatyn, North Wales, says: "It's a winning formula. It's family fun, parents enjoy their holiday at the camp and the youngsters, boys and girls alike, receive coaching from experts."

Pontin's line-up of coaching talent under Mee's direction included Bob Wilson, Geoff Hurst, Bill McGarry, Bobby Campbell, Alan Dicks, Tony Dunne, Paddy Sowden, and BBC TV's Tony Gubba, who ran a quiz.

More than 300 youngsters participated, ranging in age from six-year-old David Harlow, from Chipping Norton, to 24-year-old Paul Saunderson.

Emphasis

Several boys showed enough ability to suggest they will make professional players when they leave school, but the main emphasis was not to find stars but to offer quality coaching for youngsters of mixed ability.

Bertie Mee was full of praise for the groups: "They showed a great deal of responsibility and their discipline at the coaching sessions was first class. The coaches enjoyed the week just as much as the boys."

Geoff Hurst, World Cup hero and former manager of Chelsea, revelled in the enthusiasm shown by the kids. They called him Geoff and his grasp of christian names was staggering.

Bill McGarry, former Wolves and Newcastle boss, took the older boys and exploded the myth that he seeks competitiveness rather than flair.

Of the boys with the dazzling footwork, he said: "That'll be coached out of him in four or five years time unless he strikes lucky. Magical skills like that should be encouraged."

Pontin's official Walter Rowley was staggered by the response. He is now urgently exploring the possibility of introducing coaching weeks at other camps next summer.

"We've learned a lot. Next year will be even better," he said.

THE Football Trust is prepared to contribute up to £150,000 for the provision of football facilities on Merseyside.



This grant is the Trust's response to the appeal by sporting representatives in the area for a total of £1 million which needs to be raised locally to match the £1 million promised by the Secretary of State for the Environment, Mr Michael Heseltine, at the end of his visit to Liverpool.

It is believed to be the largest grant yet to be promised towards the £1 million target.

Chairman of the Football Trust, the Rt. Hon. Lord Aberdare, said: "We are pleased that we are able to respond to this worthwhile appeal, and we look forward to receiving recommendations from the Sports Council representatives in the North West on which particular projects they wish us to grant aid. Our only stipulation — specified by our Trust Deed — is that our money must be spent on football."

"The grant of £150,000 to Merseyside, which I am announcing today, is quite separate from our £2 million local authority pitch scheme, in which we hope Liverpool City Council will now agree to participate."

PETER KNOWLES, the Wolves star who quit football 12 years ago to become a Jehovah's Witness, has made a comeback for the Molineux men.

He turned out for Wolves against Derby in a testimonial match for long serving Wanderer Kenny Hibbitt.

Hibbitt said: "He offered to play in the game because he told me I was the only Wolves player who had not approached him with a request to play."

"He also wanted to show his gratitude to Wolves for allowing Molineux to be used for a religious convention."

SHREWSBURY TOWN have announced a loss of £11,770 for last season, but this does not include a £95,000 profit made on the transfer of Paul Maguire to Stoke.

Briefly

● Did you know Ray Clemence once played left-back for Skegness reserves in the Lincolnshire League? He later established himself as a goalkeeper with Scunthorpe, bossed by Keith Burkinshaw his current manager at Tottenham.

● The deaths of one-time Northern Ireland idols Wilbur Cush and Billy Gillespie, were followed by the sudden death of ex-Belfast Celtic, West Brom, Ireland and Great Britain centre-half Jackie Vernon. His wife, Jean, died 24 hours later, after a long illness.

● Life at the top — and at the bottom. As Manchester City were parading £1.2m Trevor Francis, York City, who finished bottom of the Fourth Division last season, were fielding a team costing not £700,000, not £70,000, but £17,500.



● KEVIN KEEGAN AND MIKE CHANNON have a great partnership at Southampton... but there was a different Keegan-Channon combination for the game against Everton.

Mike's son, Michael, was Saints' mascot for the day and here he is with the England captain.

NO fewer than eight Northern Ireland stars have topped or surpassed the 50-cap milestone in international soccer.

Ulster's "magnificent eight" are Pat Jennings (currently with 87 caps), Terry Neill (59), Billy Bingham, Danny Blanchflower (56 each), Jimmy McIlroy (55), Allan Hunter (53), Bryan Hamilton and Sammy McIlroy, with 50 apiece. Pat Rice has been agonisingly sitting on the 49-cap mark for the past two years, while his long-time Arsenal club-mate Sammy Nelson needs just two more for the half-century.

Incidentally, other current Northern Ireland contenders for the "50" club are skipper Martin O'Neill, with 39 appearances, Jimmy Nicholl (38), Chris Nicholl (35) and David McCreery (34).

● Linfield are planning a spectacular double-bill feast of football and fireworks when they play seaiders Bangor at Windsor Park on Saturday, October 31.

Immediately after the game, a Gold Cup fixture, Windsor Park will be set alight with a brilliant fireworks display to round off what promises to be quite an enjoyable and entertaining afternoon and evening for the fans.

● Who is the longest serving player on Birmingham City's books? Incredibly, it is Kevan Broadhurst, aged 22.

● Villa's souvenir brochure "Champions" is selling well. It costs £1, a bargain.

● Mansfield Town were hit when over £100 worth of instruments were stolen from their medical room during an open night. Later the instruments were returned.



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SOCCER NO LONGER THE GREATEST GAME ON TURF

IT'S ironic that ten years ago Terry Venables co-wrote a soccer novel called "They Used To Play On Grass." Either the Queens Park Rangers manager had amazing foresight or it's an incredible coincidence, but that's exactly what Rangers are doing now at every home game.

Like every revolutionary move, the West London club's Omniturf pitch needs time to be judged, but the early signs are encouraging.

Venables brings the synthetic surface into perspective when he says: "People are putting too much emphasis on it. If we have an injury they'll say 'it wouldn't have happened on grass' as if no one's ever hurt on grass."

"In a few years this type of surface may be the difference between survival and going under. Then, managers and players won't have any say — they'll have to play on it."

"I said at the beginning that teams who win here will love it, those who lose won't. Apparently after 60 minutes the Luton players weren't happy — yet in the end, after their deserved victory, they thought the pitch was great."

Luton manager David Pleat is an Omniturf fan. "Perhaps our result influenced my thinking, but we loved it. I told my players to concentrate on the football — forget about the pitch. I also said that they had to decide which footwear they were going to use before the game. If anyone came off to change I'd have sent the sub on."

"The good thing is players can run with the ball. If they beat an opponent he can't recover quite as quickly. A lot of teams will be in trouble at Loftus Road as Rangers have so many skilful players."

Venables continued: "What players have to do is to pass more accurately. They will have to pick out the man."

"It also encourages defenders to defend more skilfully. Bob Hazell has been a revelation. He's had to think a lot more and is a better player because of it."

What about sliding tackles? "Players tend to slide into tackles when they have no chance of getting the ball... they do it because it looks as if they've made an effort when really they should be on their feet."

"You can still slide-tackle on Omniturf. You have to be brave to go in, but it's a question of timing."

Newcastle manager Arthur Cox had only one complaint after their game at Loftus Road — that United lost 3-0. "The pitch had no effect on the scoreline," he said. "We won't use it as an excuse. Rangers won because their finishing was better than ours."

"Like three points for a win, you've got to give the pitch a season before saying whether it's good or bad."

Hard Pitch

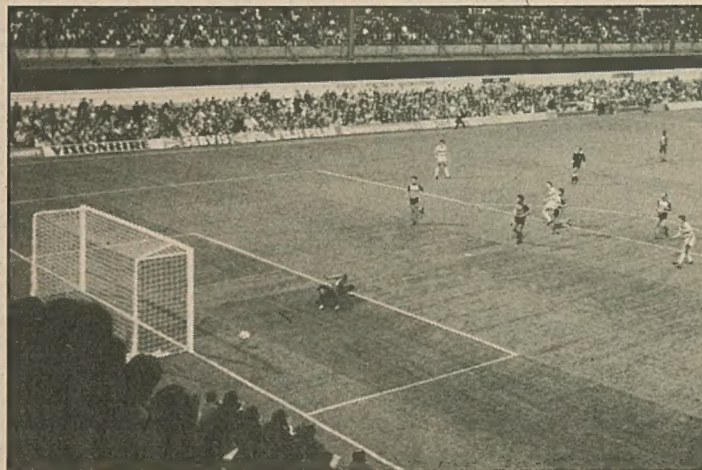
The surface is, literally, like a lush green carpet. It's soft and you CAN get burns... just as you can on any hard pitch covered in grass.

Some players may use the 'unusual' surface as an excuse for a misplaced pass or poor control, but that's too convenient an excuse. Our players are used to playing on all sorts of surfaces, from the firm pitches of September to the quagmires and ice-packs of winter.

Omniturf, really, isn't much different in this respect and Rangers' chairman Jim Gregory must be congratulated for his bold move.

Not only will it hopefully encourage better football, but Rangers can use their ground as often as they like for rugby, hockey or pop concerts happy in the knowledge it can't be damaged.

History is made as Q.P.R. and Luton clash in the first League game on artificial turf.





"Ray Clemence was bitterly disappointed to let in the first Norwegian goal."



BRYAN ROBSON
Writes for you

'WE LET DOWN THE NATION... AND THE MANAGER'

I'M proud to be English, but this week I'd rather have been in Hungary's position than ours, chasing the second qualifying spot in our World Cup group. Before our defeat in Norway I rated our chances as 70-30... after the Oslo nightmare they were 30-70.

I just hope that Rumania, who are well and truly in the driving seat, haven't changed their attitude. They're capable of beating Hungary in Bucharest, but I just wonder if they'll give it all; as a draw would suit them as well as Hungary.

England shouldn't be in a position of having to cheer on Rumania. I remember when I was a kid how

sick I was when England lost and now, as an international, it's ten times worse when we're defeated.

We've scored 12 goals in our group and that's good — it should be enough to see a team in a situation where it's about to qualify. But we've let in eight and that statistic more than any other explains why we have our backs to the wall.

There were some class players in England shirts playing in Norway. We conceded two bad goals — and the saddest part is that it wasn't a

one-off... we've made a habit of conceding bad goals all through the World Cup campaign.

Something needs to be changed. Maybe it's the system or the way we play. I don't know. But one look at the table tells you all is not right.

It all started so well in Oslo and when I opened my England goal account I'd have put my mortgage on us winning. We lost our way when Lund was pushed further forward — the defenders and midfielders didn't know who should be picking him up and in that period the damage was done.

Dangerously

He shouldn't have got into a position where he could centre the ball so dangerously. Okay, Ray Clemence will be bitterly disappointed with that goal — I think it went straight in from the cross — but there was no cover by the near post...

The second goal was the killer, just as Switzerland's was in Basle. No one said anything to Terry McDermott — you don't have to... you know how he feels.

At half-time we knew it was all or bust. We had chances but it wasn't to be.

The dressing-room was silent afterwards. We just sat there, nobody speaking. Ron Greenwood eventually broke the silence, saying

about the silly goals we'd conceded. I just felt so upset I couldn't think or speak.

We went back to the hotel, had a meal and went to bed. It was not a happy night. We realised millions of people had been glued to TV urging us on and we'd let them down.

The players also let Ron Greenwood down. I wouldn't blame him. The team virtually picked itself and I don't think there were too many arguments with his selection before the game.

I feel sorry for the senior players who, if they miss out on Spain, won't have another chance to play in a World Cup. Time is on my side, but that's little consolation.

Good luck to Scotland, though, who are heading for their third consecutive Finals. They've conceded only two goals in their qualifying ties and this has been the backbone of their success.

The way Scotland play reminds me of Liverpool — they pull John Robertson back into a deeper position making four across the middle with two men up front. Scotland may not have played exceptionally well, but they're in a strong position and have a lot of good players.

Join me again in a fortnight,

Bryan Robson



"I felt too upset to speak after losing in Oslo."

EXCLUSIVE
This week the popular
White Hart Lane skipper fills our



IT'S the unnervingly steady, analytical gaze that penetrates your thoughts and makes your next question seem out of date before it has been asked.

"Yes, we are guilty of floating on cloud nine since winning the F.A. Cup," said Steve Perryman, once again answering that which was just about to be put.

"Injuries have disrupted the team, the ball has not been running for us and we do need to forget about Wembley, and all the

the fresh faced teenager who make his League debut against Sunderland at White Hart Lane in September, 1969, Perryman stands on the threshold of leading Spurs into a whole new glorious era.

Yet even when Spurs were struggling in vain to avoid relegation back in 1977, even the most critical of the club's notoriously demanding supporters sensed his commitment, his genuine suffering in failure and his

PERRYMAN AIMS TO BE A SPURS LEGEND

excitement of winning the Cup. It is too easy to start believing that all we have to do is turn up as a team and victory is assured.

"It takes a long time to build a really successful team. We have World Cup players from Argentina, regular England internationals and lads not long out of non-League football.

"Within that squad we have tremendous experience, real quality and flair and men who are accustomed to winning major honours; players who will not be overawed when the crunch comes and the pressure really bites."

Steve Perryman belongs to a dying breed, the loyal, quiet and reliable one-club player who has experienced the pinnacles of success and the depths of despair in a career with Spurs that goes all the way back to 1967.

He joined the club in the July of that year, less than two months after seeing them beat Chelsea 2-1 in the F.A. Cup Final.

Within two seasons he was playing alongside some of the truly great players of that era and today, looking startlingly similar to



Perryman (front row, second left) reflects on Spurs' victory in the 1971 League Cup Final surrounded by some of his famous team-mates and happy manager Bill Nicholson.



and still has, no intention of leaving London. Spurs won his loyalty because Charlie Faulkner, then chief scout, spotted him and pounced as only he could.

Born in Ealing on December 21, 1951, Perryman attended the Eliots Green Grammar School, Northolt and played for Ealing, Middlesex, London and England schoolboys during a rapid rise to recognition as a defensive midfielder player.

Once Spurs signed him he played for the youth, 'A' team and reserves before that 1969 League debut. "We lost 1-0 to Sunderland," he recalled: "but it was the beginning of my football life as it is now."

It is too often forgotten that Perryman, these days excellent at sweeper or full-back, began as a tenacious and competitive midfielder player who went on to win a shared record 17 England

total dedication to the club's cause.

Rare indeed have been the vocal terrace criticisms of Steve Perryman.

How many of those fans, one wonders, are aware that Perryman was wanted by Manchester United, Manchester City, Arsenal, Q.P.R., West Ham and Chelsea?

The Northern clubs stood no chance because Perryman had,

Under-23 caps, a figure matched by former team-mate Martin Chivers.

There was no need to ask the obvious question. His expression once again answered the unasked.

Yes, he does regret not playing for the full England side, but is too modest a character to protest his long standing right to at least a chance where so many are currently failing.

"I dislike making predictable observations," he said: "but Tottenham Hotspur are one of the top six clubs in England. People ask me why I have stayed with one club. The answer is because I am happy."

"They have treated me well, I have been very fortunate in that injuries have not hampered me as

WANTED — By Arsenal and West Ham

much as other players and I have won a fair share of medals here.

"I have played alongside some of the best players of our era — men like Jimmy Greaves, Alan Gilzean, Mike England, Pat Jennings, Martin Peters, Alan Mullery . . . and now I am part of a new Spurs."

"We have big name players. Spurs have always signed the top names, strived to be the best. The club sets standards and yet people still refuse to give the recent teams credit."

"I played in three major winning Finals in three years. We beat Aston Villa 2-0 in the 1971 League Cup Final, Wolves 3-2 on

ride aboard an open-top bus after winning a Cup and what it is like to realise that you have been relegated to Division Two.

"But I believe I have learned something from every experience. You only succeed through hard work and determination. Past glories are like smoke, you can see and sense them, but never touch or feel them. The tangible successes have to be won on the pitch . . . now, today."

"I am convinced that all those things that have happened to Spurs in the past decade will lead to us becoming something special. The F.A. Cup win last season must not be a flash in the pan. It must be the tangible foundation of better things to come."

"I want to bury a few ghosts myself by becoming someone else's ghost in the future, by being part of another unforgettable Spurs side."

"We won the Cup with the style and flair Bill Nicholson so dearly loved. And when we have sorted out our inconsistent start to the season we will recapture that style."

Manager Keith Burkinshaw is one of the game's most open and direct characters. His belief in attacking football, entertainment and skill is reflected in his work in

third Championship side in Tottenham's history."

Perryman is already part of Spurs' history, even as he shapes to add to it. He has beaten Pat Jennings' League appearance record of 472 games, and made his 600th overall appearance for the first team in this season's opening match, a 3-1 win at Middlesbrough.

Managers throughout the game respect him as a professional, other players have high regard for a man who gives not one inch yet manages to take everything he can for his team by fair means only.

His versatility may, ironically, have hampered his career. Only

Ghost of the future

weeks ago he was prepared, if required, to lead the attack at Wembley because of injury problems. Not one hair would have been turned and such professionalism, equally ironically, and often unfairly, goes unsung and, outside the dressing room, unappreciated.

"If I have one real regret it is that I was too negative a player during my formative years in the first team. I was 17 when I first came in, playing in midfield and tending to

work deeper than the others.

"Other players in the side would take up the attacking initiative and I wish I had been more aware of this part of my game at the time. But on the other hand I regret no part of my career here."

"The point is that I am delighted to be a one-club man. I feel something special for Spurs. It is not just a living or a job. I want to make a mark with them, be part of their tradition and contribute my best to adding to the club's greatness."

Distinct

"Yes, I am ambitious. I am a winner at heart and take losing very hard."

Which is why he is direct about Spurs' tentative start to a season which already shows a distinct upside down look in terms of League tables.

"After four games, nobody had a maximum 12 points. Champions Aston Villa lost their first two games, and Manchester United were bottom of the League."

"But where will they be in three months? I think this could be a thrilling season, open, unpredictable and full of the things the fans enjoy most of all."

The Spurs fans would undoubtedly enjoy the sight of Steve Perryman lifting yet another trophy on his way to making that large slice of history he is so determined to help create.



A sorry start to the season for Spurs. Ray Clemence is beaten once again as the F.A. Cup holders slip to another home defeat.



YOU ASK PLAYERS ANSWER

IS THERE a question you've always wanted to ask Steve Perryman? Or Kevin Keegan, Paul Mariner (left), Kenny Dalglish or Charlie Nicholas, or any player in the Football League or Scottish League?

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Receiving a long service award from Spurs chairman Arthur Richardson after breaking the club appearance record (left). Spurs boss Keith Burkinshaw (above) encourages his side to attack.

aggregate in the 1972 UEFA Cup Final and Norwich 1-0 in the 1973 League Cup Final. But manager Bill Nicholson was always critical.

"Sometimes we had to look around the dressing room to make sure we had actually beaten some team 3-0 away because Bill would start criticising us, saying we had not deserved to win."

"He was involved in the great sides of the 1950's and 1960's. He wanted a style and perfection as well as results. It became too much to bear at times but we were, all the same, the Spurs."

"I have known what it is like to

the transfer market — Steve Archibald, Garth Crooks, Ray Clemence, Ossie Ardiles, Ricky Villa and so on.

"I have seen many great players come and go at Spurs and I can say without hesitation that we have a marvellous squad now. We play, knowing that our manager wants us to be a something special as well as successful through results. The players respond to his attitudes."

"Only a League Championship medal eludes me on the domestic front and that is something I would dearly love, to be part of the

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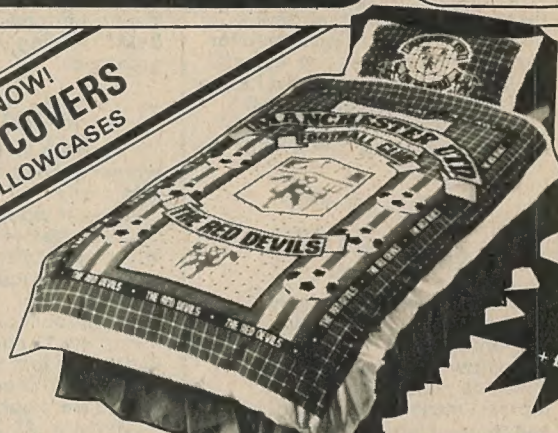
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TROUBLED times at Everton — the Chilean team of course. They must have set some sort of record by having a different manager on the bench for each of their first four League games!

They opened the season with Caupolicán Peña, but when he resigned after the first match, an Argentine called Laurido took over. He also lasted one game before Eladio Rojas took over.

Then, for the fourth League fixture Francisco Molina was appointed manager.

All the chopping and changing didn't do Everton much good as they promptly crashed to a humiliating 6-1 defeat against humble Iquique.

Meanwhile, the Chilean Football Association has announced that 12 First Division teams owe them a total of £1,370,000.

Chief offenders are Colo Colo and Universidad de Chile, who owe the F.A. over £600,000 apiece.

And Concepción are also in serious financial trouble, with debts totalling £675,000 and declining gate receipts.

Gorski goes home

AFTER leading Olympiakos (Piraeus) to a Cup and League double last season, manager Kazimierz Gorski has ended his five years stint in Greece to return home to Poland and take over Cup winners Legia Warsaw.

Gorski was the boss of Poland when they drew 1-1 with England at Wembley in 1973 to put England out of the 1974 World Cup Finals.

Broken promise

BARCELONA'S controversial West German star, Bernd Schuster, vowed he'd "be a good boy" this season after picking up 11 yellow cards and three suspensions last term.

His new season's resolution didn't last long — he's picked up three more yellow cards already.

ONE OFF. ALL OFF



I reported last week of the incredible sending-off of Kenny Burns by the notorious Spanish referee Pes Perez (above). Well, Señor Perez has been up to his tricks again and the latest victims were Bayern Munich's Paul Breitner and Karl-Heinz Rummenigge.

Bayern were in Spain to play Dynamo Tbilisi in a midweek tournament and after Perez had shown Breitner the yellow card for 'protesting' the Bayern captain asked coach Pal Csernai if he could be substituted, anticipating trouble.

Csernai refused and Breitner scored to make it 1-1. Then in the 44th minute with Tbilisi leading 2-1 Rummenigge and Dieter Hoeness were booked for 'protesting'.

The two players walked over to the bench to Breitner who had, by this time, got his wish. Breitner put his forefingers to his head and the next thing that happened was that Perez showed Breitner and Rummenigge the red card.

Despite the efforts of Csernai the entire Bayern team walked off and the game was awarded to Tbilisi.

News flashes

● Ronnie Hellstroem, the Swedish international goalkeeper of FC Kaiserslautern, broke a collar-bone in a pre-season friendly. He will be out of action for around six months, and his club replacement, 23-year-old Armin Reichel had never played a League match.

● The chairman of Fortuna Cologne (Bundesliga II) has suggested to UEFA a new European competition for Second Division Champions.

● Brazil's World Cup squad will play one game a

month this winter and spend 60 days together before the World Cup Finals in Spain. The F.A. have decided that the last two weeks will be spent in France at Font Romeu. So far, under Tele Santana, Brazil have won 16 games, drawn three and lost only two.

● Harald Nickel, the German centre-forward transferred from Borussia Mönchengladbach to FC Basel, has told the Swiss Press: "English referees tolerate physical play more than any other officials, but

Italians are very touchy about personal remarks. In Germany the referees pretend not to hear players make remarks about them."

● Kicker magazine produced a 120 million spectator total for the first 18 seasons of the West German Bundesliga I. This, they say, means that every German, man, woman and child, has seen an average of ten Bundesliga games.

● Pele is still much sought after. He was recently a judge for the Miss Universe beauty competition, taken by Miss Venezuela.

Another Argentina exodus?

IN Argentina they're already getting worried about another major exodus of top players after next year's World Cup Finals.

Daniel Passarella has already signed a pre-contract with Roma; Diego Maradona could be heading for Barcelona unless Boca Juniors can find a lot of cash in the next few months; and players like Ramón Díaz (right), Patricio Hernández, Alberto Tarantini and Daniel Brailovski have already been the targets for several interesting offers.

And the Argentines are only too aware that after the 1978 triumph Ardiles, Villa, Tarantini and Bertoni immediately headed for Europe.

At the moment, Menotti's list of 'untransferables' is keeping the World Cup squad in the country, but the incredible fact remains that 303 Argentine players have emigrated in the last dozen seasons, and Argentina can justly claim to have exported thousands of goals, as the list contains 48 goalkeepers; 58 defenders; 73 midfielders; and no less than 124 strikers.

Still in Argentina, key defender Luis Galván is trying to resolve serious financial problems with his club, Talleres.

At one stage his lawyers even

issued a writ against the club, and police impounded £1,750 of Talleres' gate receipts for a match against Rosario Central.

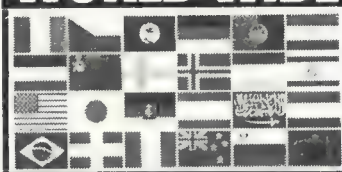
The club directors are somewhat unenthusiastic about this move, and 33-year-old Galván could be leaving Talleres shortly.

IN Colombia, some of their junior footballers are in real trouble after two matches held in Bogotá and Medellín.

Nine players and one manager were suspended for a total of 41 years and six months for assaults on referees of those two matches.

The Colombian F.A. disciplinary committee handed out suspensions which varied between five years and six months to those involved.

WORLD WIDE



Compiled by CHRIS DAVIES

Rocheteau injured again

MICHEL HIDALGO and his French World Cup squad face a critical few weeks that will decide their World Cup fate: Eire away on October 14 and Holland at home on October 18.

And it seems that will be without golden boy right winger Dominique Rocheteau (below) who rose to stardom with St-Etienne.

Now with Paris St-Germain, he was hit by a mystery injury at the end of last season, and broke down in pre-season training.

The doctors were baffled, but ordered his right leg in plaster for a month and he may still need an operation that could keep him out of the game until Christmas, and without him France's World Cup bid could be in ruins by then.



Beckenbauer out for two months

FRANZ BECKENBAUER is out of football for a minimum of two months, after tearing the adductor muscle in his thigh.

He was flown home to Hamburg for an emergency operation soon after the injury happened during Hamburger SV's Brussels Cup win, against Belgian Champions RSC Anderlecht.

The official view is that Beckenbauer's injury is serious but he should recover.

The unofficial word is that few footballers of 35 could make a successful comeback after such a bad injury.

Beckenbauer is unique, and supremely fit. But his career seems in the balance, with such a difficult injury at his age.

The accident happened, ironically, with no opponent anywhere near. Beckenbauer was taking a penalty in the shoot-out to decide the winners, after the two teams had drawn 2-2 in Brussels.

Beckenbauer explained: "I ran up to take the penalty, kicked the ball and felt a stabbing pain in my leg. I fell to the ground. It was as if someone had taken a knife to my leg and the pain was worse than anything I had ever known."

THE French are concerned that 12 per cent fewer goals have been scored in the opening weeks of the 1981-82 campaign than in any of the previous ten seasons.

What's more, a higher percentage of the goals scored have been notched by foreign players.

"Where," ask the critics, "are the French goalscorers of yesteryear?"

THE World Cup futures of the Home Countries are still in the balance, although Scotland have one foot in Spain. England must wait and hope; the same for Northern Ireland; while Wales have it all to do now. The Republic of Ireland finally got a break — but is it too late?



Joe Jordan dives bravely to head a typical goal, despite the close attention of a Swedish defender.



NEARLY OUT OF THIS



Asa Hartford in a tussle with the Swedish 'keeper.



Scotland winger Davie Provan had his best game so far for his country.



England's only bright spot in Oslo — Bryan Robson scores his first goal for England, but it wasn't enough

WORLD



Left: Holland's Arnold Muhren comes face to face with the Republic's Liam Brady.

Muhren's Ipswich team-mate Frans Thijssen is faced by John Devine in Rotterdam.

SHOOT!

WORLD CUP '82... WORLD CUP '82... WORLD CUP '82...

WHY? That's the question England fans are still asking two weeks after the humiliating defeat in Norway. Why did they lose to a team comprised of European mercenaries and part-timers? Why, once again, could England be spectators at the World Cup Finals, which will include the likes of Honduras, New Zealand, Cameroon or El Salvador?

All is not lost yet for England, but if they can't beat Norway it doesn't exactly inspire confidence for taking on the best in the world. They won in Hungary... but just look at their results over the past year:

Norway (h) — 4-0
Rumania (a) — 1-2
Switzerland (h) — 2-1
Spain (h) — 1-2
Rumania (h) — 0-0
Brazil (h) — 0-1
Wales (h) — 0-0
Scotland (h) — 0-1
Switzerland (a) — 1-2
Hungary (a) — 3-1
Norway (a) — 1-2

In 11 games, England have won three, drawn two and lost six. In those games 28 different players

has served England superbly over the years, yet against Switzerland and Hungary he was responsible for goals.

His confidence can't have been boosted by Spurs' early poor form and even before the game most people would have plumped for Peter Shilton. Once again, sadly, the fingers were pointing at Ray after Norway's first goal, which crept in by the near post.

Norway was a great opportunity for Glenn Hoddle to show he was the England player his supporters claim his is. Maybe a player needs a run of games to 'feel' an international star, but at that level time is a rare commodity and Hoddle failed when England needed his inspiration most.



be seen, but many people feel the odds are stacked against him.

Scotland, meanwhile, will almost certainly be in their third successive Finals. They have a lot of fine players in their squad — almost an embarrassment of riches in attack with Provan, Archibald, Dalglish, Jordan, Gray and Robertson available.

The discipline and commitment is so good it would be a shock if they fell down at the final hurdle.

Wales, Northern Ireland and the



Questions worrying the nation . . .

Why

did England lose in Norway

could they miss the World Cup Finals

don't players reproduce their club form

are Scotland more successful

have been used and only Bryan Robson has played in every one.

Why do Scotland keep qualifying for World Cups while England struggle? Do Scotland simply have better players... better team... better organisation? Or does it go deeper than that?

Scotland's form over the past year has not been over-impressive, yet they have been picking up points as Jock Stein searches for the best blend. England have struggled in experimenting.

Questions are inevitably asked about Ron Greenwood. Is he now too old for such a demanding job? Has his free-and-easy approach been abused by the players? Is a more iron-fisted attitude needed?

Something, somewhere must be wrong. No one can legislate for individual errors — you'd be hard pushed to think of the last time Terry McDermott laid a goal on a plate for an opponent as he did in Oslo.

And when Trevor Francis gets a header at goal from close range his team-mates can usually start walking back for the re-start... except in Oslo his late header went wide.

Greenwood can possibly be blamed for selecting Ray Clemence. The Spurs goalkeeper

Dave Watson, even if he's past his best, is still probably England's best centre-half. Young Russell Osman, so consistent for Ipswich, had a game he won't care to be reminded of.

Only Phil Thompson, Mick Mills, Bryan Robson and Kevin Keegan emerged with any sort of credit from the Norway fiasco.

Picking the England team is easy, if you aren't the manager, yet the England side that faces Hungary in what could be the crucial deciding game at Wembley is relatively simple. This is not the time to experiment and, bar injuries, this is the team that will probably line-up in November:

SHILTON
NEAL
WATSON
THOMPSON
MILLS
McDERMOTT
ROBSON
BROOKING
COPPELL
MARINER
KEEGAN

Yes, the same team, except for a goalkeeping change, that won in Hungary. Greenwood has no aces or trumps left. His hand is there to



Trevor Francis tries to find a way through the Norwegian defence.

Republic still have mathematical chances, but there is no doubting that with the qualifying ties drawing to a close only the Scots can get out their Spanish phrase books with any confidence.

HOW ENGLAND CAN STILL REACH SPAIN

BY THE time you read this you will know the result of Wednesday night's clash between Rumania and Hungary.

If Rumania have won, which makes them virtually certain to qualify as group winners, England's hopes of gaining the second qualifying place are still alive. If Hungary have even drawn in Bucharest then England may as well say 'adios' to Spain next summer.

Rarely can English supporters have been cheering on another nation as they did Rumania against Hungary!

Let's assume Hungary have lost in Rumania. If that has happened then England **MUST** beat the Hungarians at Wembley, hoping that Hungary don't beat Switzerland and Norway at home by big scores.

Despite the defeat in Norway all was not lost after that night of disgrace... as long as Rumania



Einar Aas of Nottingham Forest is hugged after inspiring his country to victory over England.



did England a favour on Wednesday night.

As Ron Greenwood pointed out, England could still qualify on goal-difference . . . and after so many years their fans won't be too fussy how they get to the World Cup Finals!

If England beat Hungary at Wembley by the minimum score of one goal, they will have nine points and a 13-8 goal-difference — i.e. +5.

If Hungary have lost in Rumania — let's assume by the minimum score — they will have five points and a 6-7 goal-difference — i.e. -1.

Complicated

For Hungary to make that -1 into a goal-difference superior to England's they will need to beat Switzerland and Norway heavily. It gets a bit complicated, but goal-difference invariably is. If they lose by one goal at Wembley they will, in the meantime, need to beat the Swiss and the Norwegians BY AT LEAST EIGHT CLEAR GOALS.

That last statistic is the telling one. And it's a very stiff order indeed.

Of course, Hungary could have won in Rumania and then England would need Norway or

Switzerland to 'Do the Impossible' and take points from Hungary in Budapest. Mind you, as one cynic said, England won in Hungary and they're not a good team . . .

So when England play Hungary at Wembley on November 18th it could be a similar situation to the one in 1973 when England needed to beat Poland to qualify for the Finals in West Germany. Of course they drew 1-1 in one of the most remarkable matches ever seen at Wembley.

Perhaps the game in Bucharest on Wednesday night makes the situation clearer. Fingers crossed that Rumania won, preferably by a couple of goals or more — then, Hungary would need to break a few records against Switzerland and Norway . . . or, at the final reckoning, do what Poland did eight years ago and avoid defeat at Wembley.

It's a sad fact but that's exactly what most visitors to England's home do these days.

Fans the world don't want

IF THERE is one reason for hoping England fail to qualify for the World Cup Finals, it's that Spain won't be invaded by the travelling army of thugs.

It has now become tirelessly predictable that whenever England play away there will be trouble.

These mindless morons probably don't read SHOOT, which is for the genuine football follower. But the devastation they left behind in Turin, Basle and Oslo means that all English supporters are tarred with the same brush.

The Spanish authorities must be worried that the hooligans could invade the Iberian peninsular in vast numbers next June and July.

It's a horrible prospect and the sad fact is that the rest of Europe doesn't want England fans in their country.

STATE OF THE GROUPS

GROUP 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Austria	6	5	0	1	15	3	10
W. Germany	4	4	0	0	11	1	8
Bulgaria	5	3	0	2	9	6	6
Albania	6	1	0	5	4	12	2
Finland	7	1	0	6	3	20	2

To play: W. Germany/Finland (Sept. 23); Austria/W. Germany, Albania/Bulgaria (Oct. 14); Bulgaria/Austria (Nov. 11); W. Germany/Albania (Nov. 18); W. Germany/Bulgaria (Nov. 22).

GROUP 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yugoslavia	5	4	0	1	14	5	8
Italy	5	4	0	1	9	3	8
Denmark	7	3	0	4	11	9	6
Greece	5	3	0	2	6	7	6
Luxembourg	6	0	0	6	1	17	0

To play: Greece/Denmark (Oct. 14); Yugoslavia/Italy (Oct. 17); Italy/Greece (Nov. 11); Yugoslavia/Luxembourg (Nov. 21); Greece/Yugoslavia (Nov. 29); Italy/Luxembourg (Dec. 12th).

GROUP 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belgium	7	5	1	1	12	6	11
Rep. Ireland	7	3	2	2	14	9	8
Holland	6	3	1	2	8	5	7
France	5	3	0	2	12	5	6
Cyprus	7	0	0	7	4	25	0

To play: Eire/France, Holland/Belgium (Oct. 14); France/Holland (Nov. 18); France/Cyprus (Dec. 5).

● If Eire beat France they will have 10 points. Other maximums then are: Belgium 13, Holland 11 and France 10. So The Irish must beat France and hope that the Dutch slip up against Belgium and France.

GROUP 6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Scotland	6	4	2	0	8	2	10
N. Ireland	6	2	2	2	5	3	6
Sweden	7	2	2	3	5	7	6
Portugal	5	2	1	2	4	4	5
Israel	6	0	3	3	2	8	3

To play: N. Ireland/Scotland, Portugal/Sweden (Oct. 14); Israel/Portugal (Oct. 28); N. Ireland/Israel, Portugal/Scotland (Nov. 18).

● Unless Scotland slump dramatically they're as good as there. Northern Ireland must win at Windsor Park against Scotland and Israel — that will give them 10 points. It would then depend on how Scotland fared in Portugal, with a draw possibly enabling the Irish to qualify. A likelier outcome is that Scotland and Portugal will qualify without TOO much trouble.



Republic winger Steve Heighway face-to-face with Arnold Muhren of Holland.

GROUP 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wales	6	4	1	1	10	2	9
Czech.	5	4	0	1	13	2	8
USSR	3	2	1	0	7	1	5
Iceland	6	2	0	4	7	18	4
Turkey	6	0	0	6	1	15	0

To play: USSR/Turkey, Iceland/Czechoslovakia (Sept. 23); Turkey/USSR (Oct. 7); Wales/Iceland (Oct. 14); USSR/Czechoslovakia (Oct. 28); USSR/Wales (Nov. 28); Czechoslovakia/USSR (Nov. 30).

● Wales must beat Iceland at home, which will give them 11 points. Really, they need to draw in the USSR — one point — and surely that's the maximum they can realistically expect — will put them on 12 points. They'll still need the Czechs and the Soviet Union to take points off each other. It's very much a case of fingers crossed, even if the Welsh get their three points . . . unless Czechoslovakia and the USSR have come a cropper in Turkey and Iceland: unlikely.

GROUP 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	7	3	1	3	12	8	7
Rumania	5	2	2	1	4	3	6
Norway	7	2	2	3	7	11	6
Hungary	4	2	1	1	6	6	5
Switzerland	5	1	2	2	7	8	4

To play: Rumania/Hungary (Sept. 23); Rumania/Switzerland (Oct. 10); Hungary/Switzerland (Oct. 14); Hungary/Norway (Oct. 31); Switzerland/Rumania (Nov. 11); England/Hungary (Nov. 18).



Alan Hansen shows his style against Sweden.

GROUP 7

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Poland	2	2	0	0	3	0	4
E. Germany	2	1	0	1	2	2	2
Malta	2	0	0	2	1	4	0

To play: E. Germany/Poland (Oct. 10); E. Germany/Malta (Nov. 11); Poland/Malta (Nov. 15).

★ Only one country qualifies from this group — the top two from the others.

SOUTH AMERICA

Brazil, Chile and Peru have qualified; Argentina qualify automatically as holders.

CENTRAL AMERICA

Honduras, Mexico, Canada, Cuba, El Salvador and Haiti play-off in Honduras during November.

AFRICA

The winners of Nigeria/Algeria and Morocco/Cameroon (home and away) qualify for Spain.

OCEANIA

New Zealand, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the People's Republic of China are involved in a home and away play-off tournament to see which two go to Spain.

'WALLACE'S SWITCH HELPED ME'



FRANKIE GRAY is my rival for the number three international shirt of Scotland, but I wonder how many of you know he might have been a rival of mine at Leeds United, too.

Yes, there was a time in my career when I got the opportunity to join the Elland Road team before I decided upon Rangers.

At the time I was playing as a striker or winger! That seems a long time ago. I had never even thought of playing left-back until former Rangers manager Jock Wallace, now the boss of Leicester City, of course, put me there during a youth tournament in France several years ago.

Anyway, I must have impressed in my forward role when I was at Johnstone High School and Leeds invited me down to Elland Road for trials. But I was just another young hopeful among so many and nothing happened.

I returned to Scotland and eventually signed for the club I had supported all my life — Rangers. I was converted to centre-half then sweeper before Mr Wallace decided I had the makings of a left-back and I haven't looked back since then.



I know it sounds corny to say it was a dream come true to sign for Rangers, but in my case it is perfectly true. When I was a youngster at Auchenlodment — try saying that in a hurry — Primary school in Johnstone I could think of little else but of playing for the Ibrox giants.

I was delighted when I got the chance and it's a real family affair at Ibrox at the moment — two of my uncles are also on the Rangers pay roll!

Harvey Littlejohn and Duncan McGhee are the names of my uncles who work for Rangers, but you'll never see their names on the team sheet!

One works in the stand, arranging seating and so on, and the other is the announcer, would you believe. He just started this season and I think he was as nervous as I was before my Rangers debut!

In one game against Hibs this

season he made a bit of a boob. One Easter Road player went off to be substituted for another and my uncle contrived to get both the players' names wrong. It was a bad day altogether because we dropped an unexpected point to Hibs in a game which we really should have won.

So, as you can plainly see, I don't have far to look for company at Ibrox.

Life has been good to me so far and I must say I really enjoy captaining Rangers although, like I have said before, every player at this club is skipper out on the park.

At the moment I am looking forward to our second-leg European Cup-Winners' Cup-tie against Dukla Prague at Ibrox on Wednesday.

We missed out on Europe last season, though, and we are determined to have a good, long run this term.



The League Cup campaign is progressing nicely, too, I'm glad to say and we are out to break Dundee United's two-year grip on the trophy. It's about time it came back home to Ibrox.

Thankfully, things are going fairly well and I just hope they stay that way. Jock Stein left me out of his World Cup squad for the match against Sweden and I can have no argument with that.

I started the season with an injury and had played in only a handful of games before Mr Stein announced his pool. However, now I am back to my peak I have a warning for Frankie Gray or any other Scottish left-back... I aim to make that number three shirt my own.

Ally Dawson

**TARTAN TALK FROM
CELTIC'S DANNY
McGRAIN NEXT WEEK**



Frank Gray (left) and Ally Dawson (far right) are rivals for the Scotland left-back position.

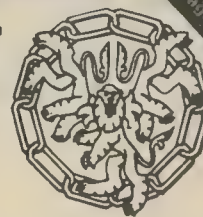
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AUGUST	16	17	18	19	20	21	22		23	24	25	26	27	28	29		30	31						
SEPTEMBER			1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	11	12		13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
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On the ball CROSSWORD

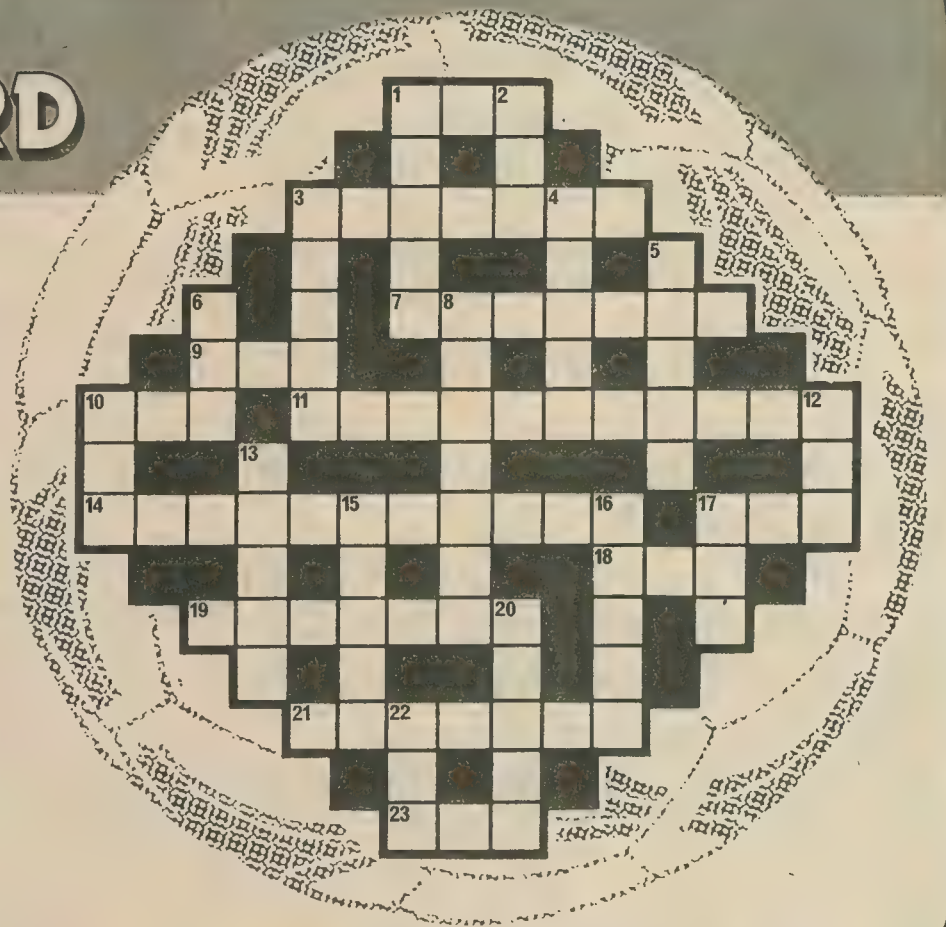
ACROSS:—

- (1) Arthur ---iston, Manchester United full-back (3)
- (3) Millja —, Spurs goalkeeper. (7)
- (7) Counsels or gives opinion. (7)
- (9) — Rush, Liverpool striker. (3)
- (10) — McBride, Everton player. (3)
- (11) Spurs midfielder player. (5 & 6)
- (14) Frank —, Birmingham City striker. (11)
- (17) — Chapman, Stoke City striker. (3)
- (18) Col ---ine (Irish club). (3)
- (19) Matches held again. (7)
- (21) Sir — Matthews, former England star. (7)
- (23) If Aberdeen, West Ham and Stoke give "BET"; what do Charlton, Millwall and Aston Villa give? (3)

DOWN:—

- (1) Centre of amphitheatre. (5)

- (2) In short, transport to the match, perhaps! (3)
- (3) In the middle of. (5)
- (4) Pat Jennings is such an international. (5)
- (5) Curves . . . as a shot, for instance. (5)
- (6) Contend or compete. (3)
- (8) Mal —, Luton Town defender. (7)
- (10) The mandible is a bone of it. (3)
- (12) F---noord, European Cup winners 1970. (3)
- (13) M-----well play at Fir Park (5)
- (15) Remove the initials of Ipswich, Leeds, Rangers, York and Derby from DISTILLERY (Ireland) and rearrange the rest into a geographical term. (5)
- (16) Tense or apprehensive. (5)
- (17) Negligent or loose. (3)
- (20) Parts of the feet. (5)
- (22) Billy ---croft; Middlesbrough defender. (3)



ANSWERS ON PAGE 46

SHOOT readers score with Bobby Charlton

OUR four Burton First Base competition winners (issue dated 25th April, 1981) spent a glorious week at the Bobby Charlton Soccer School recently, improving their skills with some of the best coaches in the game.

This was First Prize in the competition which included £50 worth of Burton First Base gear. Fifty runners up received an exclusive

Shoot First Base tee shirt.

The Soccer School was founded by Bobby Charlton, the former Manchester United and England striker, two years ago and provides a programme of intensive coaching, concentrating mainly on skills and techniques to help boys aged 10-16 improve their own game.

Each day begins at around 8.00am with breakfast at the School's headquarters, University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology.

Then it's off to the MUTECH training ground where the boys are divided into groups.

Each group is assigned a skilled coach. Bobby is also there, of course, dividing himself among the groups.

Each day the boys concentrate on a different skill . . . heading, shooting, passing, dribbling, ball control, penalties, goalkeeping. These skills are then put into practice with a coached game.

Lectures and soccer films are used as part of the training programme. The boys also visit Maine Road or Old Trafford and attend an evening match if possible.



ABOVE . . . Bobby Charlton and Niven Howlett — Executive Director of the Soccer School greet SHOOT's winners (from left): Iain Davies, Mark Robinson, Colin Young and Bobby Bell.

FAR LEFT . . . Iain Davies improves his heading skills.

RIGHT . . . Visiting Maine Road, home of Manchester City.

At the end of the week there are finals of various games and competitions, including penalty prize which the parents attend.

Who knows . . . SHOOT/First Base might have discovered a future England striker. We will watch their progress with interest.



M**MARTIN O'Neill's tremendous success at Nottingham Forest hasn't satisfied his hunger for medals.**

He says: "I'm desperately keen for Manchester City to be successful and it would be tremendous if we could win something this season."

"Things are certainly looking up at Maine Road and I was delighted when they signed my old Forest pal Trevor Francis. He's a terrific player."

'I've grown-up' admits O'Neill

"Signing him after the other summer buys proved that the club and the manager mean business. They want to bring success here."

It's because of O'Neill's drive for success that he spent such a short time at Norwich. He joined them towards the end of last season to try and help them escape relegation.

But when they slipped into Division Two, he exercised his right to move on.

"Norwich were in a precarious position when they asked me to join them, so the manager Ken Brown suggested that we make an arrangement whereby he would let me go if they went down."

"It was sad the way things

turned out but I really didn't want to start playing in the Second Division again at this stage in my career."

O'Neill got medals in the League, League Cup and European Cup at Forest, a haul he'll be lucky to repeat at City.

But he was driven away from Forest by rows with Brian Clough about his position in the team. O'Neill wanted to play in the middle of the field but Clough thought he should play wide on the right.

"I got into an argument with the manager about it and in the end, it looked as if it would be for the best if I left."

"Obviously, it was a big wrench



ABOVE . . . Martin O'Neill (right) in the glory days with Forest after their 1980 European Cup Final win against Hamburger SV.

LEFT . . . O'Neill is delighted to have teamed up again with former Forest team-mate Trevor Francis.



leaving Forest after nine years. It's a tremendous adjustment to make when you've been going to the same place for training every day for nine years and suddenly you don't go anymore.

"But the way things have worked out, I think it's been a good thing for my career, and it's helped me grow up."

Ironically, O'Neill started his City career in a position that doesn't really suit him — midfield anchor man.

'Natural'

"I played very deep in my first game but that was because we had so many attacking players in the middle of the park that someone had to stay back. It's not really my natural game and I prefer to go forward more."

O'Neill also got a rolicking from his manager John Bond after one of his pre-season performances.

"It may sound ridiculous, but it takes me six or seven games to get

into a new season. I don't know why, but for some reason I've always been a slow starter."

O'Neill has already felt the excitement that Manchester generates for both its clubs and it's a rivalry that he finds healthy.

"The fans up here are incredible. And with both clubs in the public eye all the time, it keeps things on the boil."

"In Nottingham, we didn't have both clubs in the same Division — although County are back in the First now. Funnily enough, the year Forest came up, County were in the running for promotion, too — and there was a lot of interest in the town."

O'Neill believes Forest will be one of City's main threats in any bid for honours. "When they let Francis join us, I thought they might struggle because he's a

world class player.

"But buying Justin Fashanu was a great move for them. They've needed a big centre-forward since Peter Withe left. Let's face it, there's no point having a wonderful crosser of the ball like John Robertson if there's no one in the middle to get on the end of them. Justin will do that."

As for City, O'Neill is making no predictions. "Naturally, I hope we can do something but I've learned that it's not worth making predictions in this game."

"I remember in 1978-79, as League Cup holders, Forest had to play at Oldham in the first match. We scrambled a 0-0 draw and really, we should have lost. We played really badly."

"But we won the replay 4-2 and went on to win the Cup again. That's how funny football is."

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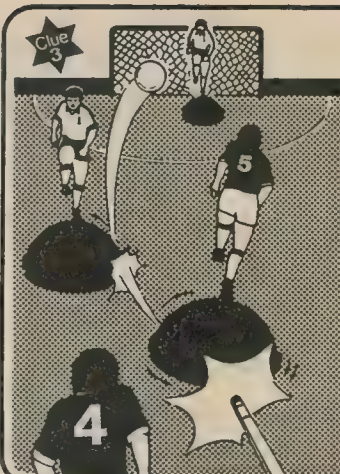
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their free packets.

CHANCES are that when I run off the Anfield pitch this Saturday, following our League game with West Ham, the Thompson nose will look even more like a parrot's red beak after David Cross has given me the elbow!

For the past two seasons, Second Division centre-halves have had to dodge the windmilling elbows of The Hammers' centre-forward, but now the club are back in the First it's the likes of me who'll have to watch out for them again in our aerial duels.

It's just an occupational hazard of my job, and one I willingly accept, as David accepts that he'll probably get a few whacks from me that will add to his battle scars.

The tussles between today's centre-back and an opposing striker are a big feature of our game, though not to be compared to the thunderous bone-jarring collisions of the olden days when centre-forwards, built like tanks, battled it out with

'David Cross mustn't be given elbow room'

Cross it's probably not intentional, using his elbows to keep his balance or climb higher, but they can be a real menace to the health of defenders.

Just about every team I can think of employs a striking double act with one "half" acting as a target man whose job it is to feed his partner with headed knock-downs and flicks. For instance, Paul Mariner and Alan Brazil at Ipswich, Peter Withe and Gary Shaw with Aston Villa and Dave Johnson and Kenny Dalglish at Liverpool.

Scoring goals is the hardest job in football, so it's not surprising suc-



PHIL THOMPSON
My soccer world



Phil's partner, Alan Hansen, outjumps West Ham's top scorer.

In the past the side from Upton Park was regarded as a soft touch, a team that would hand over the two points without too much of a fight. They always had class — the ability to play attractive, flowing football — but they lacked a hard core, a determination not to be beaten.

Under manager John Lyall, Hammers' soft metal has been replaced by steel.

The team is strong in every area. A defence that could once be counted on to give away a couple of goals has been transformed into one of the tightest, best organised in the League. In Phil Parkes they have a sure-handed 'keeper who inspires confidence in the men in front of him.

Difficult

Alvin Martin and Billy Bonds combine superbly to form a human barrier opponents find very difficult to break down.

Their midfield, with Alan Devonshire, Geoff Pike and Trevor Brooking, when he's fit, is the envy of many other First Division clubs.

I doubt if I'll make much contact with Trevor on Saturday, apart from buying him a soft drink — he's virtually a teetotaler — in the players' lounge afterwards.

I'm sure a lot of my time will be spent in not giving David Cross enough elbow room to score!

The Hammers have had their moment at the top of the table. Now it's our turn.

Phil Thompson

'No longer a CLASH OF TITANS'

equally massive centre-halves. A real Clash of Titans.

Today's contestants are a different breed, the only similarity being they are just as tall. Now they are slimmer, more mobile, and equipped with a wider range of skills.

The emphasis is less on brawn and more on brains.

And whereas in the past it was a question of one against one, now strikers hunt in pairs opposed by twin centre-backs.

Man-For-Man

My partner in defence at Liverpool is Alan Hansen, and contrary to what many people believe we do not go in for man-for-man marking. For instance, I won't say to Alan before the West Ham match: "You take Paul Goddard and I'll look after David Cross."

If we did that we'd be pulled all over the place, out of position.

We'll just pick up the nearest man to us at any time when The Hammers are threatening our goal.

Alan and I are a sort of last line of defence. It's the job of our two full-backs to prevent the opposition from knocking the ball into the penalty box. When they fail, it's up to us to make a clearance.

The high ball is the main danger, and when that comes over it's a battle of heads.

Strikers are full of tricks, such as backing in, standing on my toes, or elbowing me. In the case of David

successful strikers invariably command the big fees. They also have a shorter playing life than players in other positions, simply because they operate up front in the firing line, where the going is toughest.

Apart from his skills, and a body that can take a lot of punishment, a striker must have true grit: the courage to go in where the boots

and heads are flying!

This quality is also important in my department of goal-stopping because we have to take a lot of stick, too.

If you've already got the impression I'm readying myself for 90 minutes of hard graft on Saturday against David Cross and his Hammers, then you'd be right.

Aston Villa's "terrible twins", Gary Shaw and Peter Withe.



'Today's strikers hunt in pairs'

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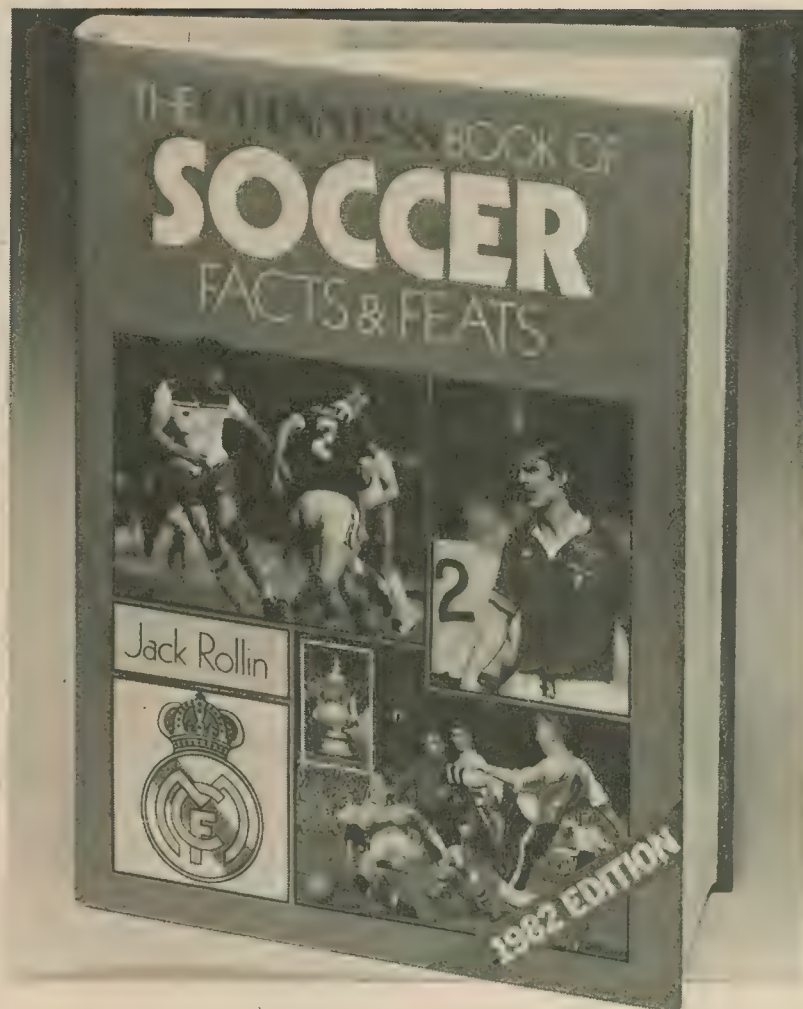
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CLUB SPOTLIGHT

IF ever a First Division manager needed time it is Wolverhampton Wanderers' boss John Barnwell.

It is the oldest excuse in the book for a manager to say he needs a season or two to mould a winning unit. Some say it and never achieve it.

Barnwell has been around long enough to know that such a statement would be unacceptable to the Molineux fans.

Yet if the Wolves manager is reluctant to predict: "I'll get it right," he has the satisfaction of knowing that he possesses one of the most talented crops of young players in the country.

His problem is that they need time to mature. And time in football is a commodity that directors and supporters are not prepared to offer.

It was this anxiety for more instant success which drove Barnwell into the transfer market in a bid to improve on Wolves' poor First Division record last season — they came fifth from bottom.

Ally McCoist, hailed as the new Kenny Dalglish, spurned Barn-



HONOURS

First Division Champions: 1953-54, 1957-58, 1958-59

Second Division Champions:

1931-32, 1976-77

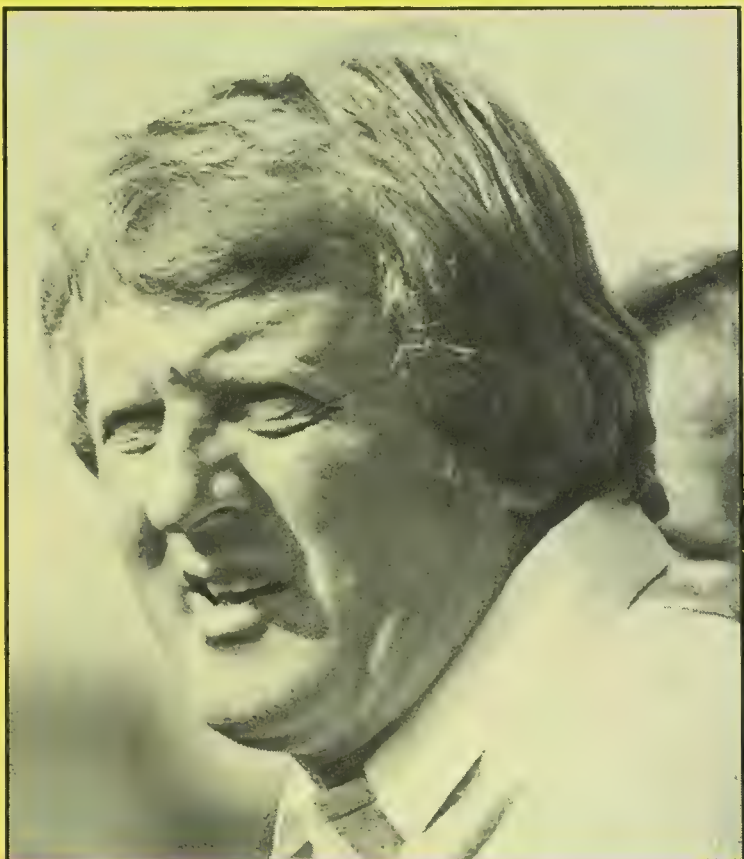
Third Division (North) Champions: 1923-24

F.A. Cup winners: 1893, 1908, 1949, 1960

League Cup winners: 1973-74

UEFA Cup runners-up: 1971-72

Manager John Barnwell (right) has introduced Mick Matthews (below) and Alan Birch (below, right) in an attempt to inject new life to the Wolves attack.



WOLVES SHAKE-UP

well's invitation in favour of Sunderland and Dutch ace Rene van der Kerkhof was turned down, so the Wolves boss shocked a few people by signing Alan Birch from Chesterfield.

He needed a new player and he needed him quickly. Birch has brought a refreshing spark to Wolves' attack.

The transfer of Joe Gallagher from Birmingham for £350,000 was equally inspirational. The strong, raw boned Gallagher is one of the First Division's powerhouse central defenders.

Shock

But no sooner had the ink dried on his contract than Gallagher broke his left wrist at Leeds, a match they lost 3-0 and their second successive League defeat after the shock opening day on which a goal by Mick Matthews sent Liverpool crashing.

Barnwell's biggest problem has been to bridge the gap between Wolves' long serving players and the new group pushing for first team places. The age gap is wider than Barnwell would like in his efforts to restore Wolves to a semblance of the form they showed in the 70's.

Too many of the Wolves staff featured in the club's disastrous relegation side of five years ago. Perhaps they should have been replaced, despite their great service to the club.

Kenny Hibbitt, one of the club's experienced campaigners, strongly resents criticism of the "old brigade", claiming they can

teach many of the youngsters a lesson in how to play First Division football.

And typical of Kenny, he has silenced a group of boo-boys on the terraces by winning a place this season after the vast majority of Molineux fans gave him a great ovation at a well-attended testimonial against Derby.

His work-rate remains phenomenal and his experience is invaluable alongside the younger element winning First Division places.

Birch and Gallagher (before his injury) have opened up new options for Barnwell. Birch has a great eye for an opening, fully justifying Hibbitt's decision to recom-



mend the former Walsall and Chesterfield star to Barnwell.

But Wolves do not appear to have the firepower necessary to mount a challenge for trophies this season.

Mick Matthews, John Teasdale, Craig Moss, John Humphrey and Mick Hollifield need time to mature, and 18-year-old Scot Steve McLaren, signed in June, is unlikely to be ready for service for a few months.

Andy Gray, in good form in early games, remains an enigma, potentially the best striker in the country but sometimes lacking the devastating goal-punch of which he is capable, and his faithful sidekick John Richards has been out of favour also.

Overcame

Barnwell almost sold him to Birmingham. Typically, Richards rolled up his sleeves, overcame the disappointment of playing for the reserves, and has pledged to win his place back.

"To start the season in the Central League side took a lot of getting used to. It was particularly strange for me because I played in no less than 53 of the 55 first team games last season."

Wayne Clarke, who scored Wolves' only goal in their 4-1 defeat by Southampton, is a likely front-runner alongside Gray, while the Gallagher-Rafael Villazan combination looked strong at the heart of Wolves' defence before the new arrival's injury.



A season of consolidation, the odd surprise result, the progress of Wolves' nursery of youngsters... life is not that gloomy in this soccer loving region of the Black Country.

But after the 1-0 defeat by Spurs, Wolves' third in four games, Barnwell knows he is facing a race against time.

WOI



LIVES

BACK ROW (left to right): Mel Eves, Rafael Villazan, George Berry, Mick Kearns, Paul Bradshaw, Hugh Atkinson, John Humphrey, Geoff Palmer.

MIDDLE ROW: John Malom (physio), Ian Ross (coach), John Teasdale, Andy Gray, Mick Hollifield, Mick Matthews, Craig Moss, John Barnwell (manager), Jim Barron (coach).

FRONT ROW: Norman Bell, Derek Parkin, Willie Carr, John Richards, Kenny Hibbitt, Peter Daniel, Wayne Clarke.



SHOOT!



Arthur Graham of Leeds (extreme right) scores the second of his three goals against Wolves (left), while Rotherham's Rodney Fern (no.10 below) heads home in the 4-1 demolition of Norwich at Millmoor.



Winners all the way

Everton's Peter Eastoe shows no fear as he dives in where the boots are flying to head home his side's third goal in the 3-1 victory over visiting Birmingham City at Goodison Park. David Langan is the acrobatic defender.

A delighted Joe Jordan after scoring for Scotland against Sweden and virtually booking his place on the plane to Spain next year.

Aston Villa's Terry Donovan gives his side an unassailable lead at White Hart Lane and helps the League Champions to their first points of the season. Looking on is Spurs full-back Gordon Smith.



Why Bonds beats Moore



It was on October 11th last year that West Ham first shared top spot in Division Two. But it wasn't until the end of November that they really began to assert their authority, leaving everyone else in their wake, as they powered back to the First Division.

This season they headed Division One after just three games. And while no one at Upton Park needs reminding that it's far too early yet to be contemplating a repeat of last season's runaway success — especially now they have stepped up in class — it's certainly not a bad way to begin a new campaign.

"Obviously we're all delighted to have got off to such a good start," said skipper Billy Bonds. "But we're not allowing ourselves to get too carried away."

"It's not a sprint, it's a long, hard slog. Quite frankly I don't think it's a good idea for the League tables to be published as early as they are. It raises too many false hopes."

'Pointed Out'

"But having said that, I can't deny it was nice to see ourselves sitting there at the top, when they first appeared. But as I pointed out to the other lads in the side, that was after only eight days, there's still another EIGHT MONTHS to go."

"If, say by Christmas, we find ourselves at the top, or close to it, then perhaps we can start thinking in terms of the Championship being a possibility. But at the moment it's only a dream."

Despite his understandably guarded comments, Billy makes no secret of the fact that he's overjoyed that the side appears to have carried on where they left off last season.

"For as long as I can remember, people have continually admired the way West Ham have played their football," says Billy. "But a lack of consistency has always been our downfall."

"Last season we put that right. Confidence is vital in football, and ours grew with every game we played. Consequently, we got so used to winning, it became a habit

in the end. One that we were all determined to continue with this season."

Bonds himself has recently celebrated his 35th birthday, on September 17th. He's said by his teammates to be the fittest player at the club, and openly admits to having as much enthusiasm for the game now as he's ever had.

"It's true people keep telling me I'm playing better than ever," he says. "But I don't feel as though I'm doing anything different. I like to think I've always been a consistent performer, right throughout my career. Maybe now, because the side as a whole has begun to enjoy better times, more people have started to take notice. But it's a nice compliment, all the same."

Certainly Ron Greenwood, the man who first took Bonds to Upton Park, from Charlton, showed he had taken note of Billy's form in West Ham's revival, by calling him into the full England squad on two occasions last season, for the friendly against Brazil, then for the British Championship.

LEFT . . . Alvin Martin and Bonds (left) head clear during West Ham's fine 4-0 win at Spurs earlier this term.

Sadly, injury robbed Bonds on both occasions of what would have been his first full cap.

"To be honest, I was very surprised to get those calls in the first place," he admits. "It's not the sort of thing you expect when you get to my age. Naturally I was disappointed when injury eventually ruled me out, but more so for my dad, who has always been my staunchest supporter. I would have loved to have won just one cap purely for him. I think the chance has gone for good now though."

Full cap or not, no one can take away from Billy the tremendous contribution he's made to the West Ham cause, in the 14 years he's been with them. Particularly since taking over the captaincy from the legendary Bobby Moore, back in 1974.

The down-to-earth Bonds has never pretended there were any frills to the way he plays the game. But despite that, many would argue that Billy's 100 per cent aggression, and never-say-die attitude has made him a more popular figure with the Upton Park faithfuls, than even his illustrious predecessor was.



Captains old and new. Former England leader Bobby Moore (inset) and Billy Bonds (left), the man who replaced him as skipper of West Ham.

LINE-UPS...RESULTS...SCORERS...

Saturday, August 29

Scottish Premier

CELTIC (1) 5 (Burns, McCluskey 2, McGarvey, Nicholas)
AIRDRIE (1) 2 (Clark 2 (1 pen)) 21,000
Celtic: Bonner, McGrain, Reid, Aitken, Moyes, MacLeod, Provan (Nicholas), Sullivan, McGarvey, Burns, McCluskey (McAdam).
Airdrie: Martin, Erwin, Rodger, McCluskey, March (Walker), McKeown, Clark, Anderson (N), Gordon, McGuire.

DUNDEE UTD (3) 4 (Sturrock, Holt, Pettigrew, Bannon pen)
ABERDEEN (0) 1 (McLeish) 10,598
Dundee U: McAlpine, Stark, Hegarty, Narey, Murray, Holt, Kirkwood, Bannon, Pettigrew (Mile), Sturrock, Dodds.
Aberdeen: Leighton, Kennedy, McLeish, Rougvié (Watson), Strachan, Cooper, Bell (Jarvie), McGhee, Hewitt, Weir.

HIBS (2) 2 (Murray, Rae)
DUNDEE (0) 0 6,000
Hibs: McArthur, Sneddon, Flavell, McLaren, Patterson, Docherty, Callaghan, Rae, Connolly, Duncan, Murray.
Dundee: Geddes, Cameron, Schaefer, Fraser (Barr), Glennie, MacDonald, Ferguson, Bell, Sinclair (Stephen), Fleming, Kidd.

PARTICK (0) 0
RANGERS (0) 1 (McLean pen) 15,352
Partick: Rough, McKinnon, Kay, Dunlop, Whittaker, Park, Doyle, McDonald, Lapsley, O'Hara (Johnston), Higgins (Clark).
Rangers: McCloy, Jardine (Redford), Forsyth, Stevens, Miller, Russell, McLean, Bett, Cooper, McAdam (MacDonald), Johnstone.

ST MIRREN (0) 2 (Scanlon 2 (1 pen))
MORTON (0) 0 5,609
St Mirren: Thomson, Beckett, Abercrombie, Fitzpatrick, McCormack, Copland, Logan, Fulton, Stark, Richardson, Scanlon.
Morton: Baines, Hayes, Holmes, Rooney, McLaughlin, Orr (Cochrane), Houston, Thomson, Busby, Hutchison, Docherty.

Scottish First

DUMBARTON (0) 0
E. STIRLING (2) 3 (Howatt, Lamont, Renwick) 500

DUNFERMLINE (1) 1 (Considine)
HEARTS (0) 1 (Liddell) 4,300

FALKIRK (1) 1 (Herd)
AYR (0) 2 (Nicol, Ahern) 2,500

HAMILTON (1) 1 (Brown)
RAITH (0) 0 1,348

KILMARNOCK (1) 2 (Carson (o.g.), Gallagher)
MOTHERWELL (0) 0 2,700

QUEEN'S PARK (1) 2 (McGregor, Melrose)
CLYDEBANK (0) 2 (Fallon, McCabe) 783

ST JOHNSTONE (1) 1 (Pelosi)
QOS (0) 0 1,892

Scottish Second

ALBION (1) 2 (McDonagh, Howell pen)
COWDENBEATH (0) 0 300

ALLOA (0) 1 (McNab)
FORFAR (1) 2 (Clark, Hancock) 400

ARBROATH (2) 3 (Gavine, Docherty, Robb)
MEADOWBANK (1) 2 (Young (o.g.), Jobson) 600

BERWICK (2) 4 (Davidson 2, Lawson, Black)
MONTROSE (0) 0 550

BRECHIN (1) 2 (Lefflie, Campbell)
STIRLING (0) 1 (Torrance) 650

CLYDE (2) 3 (Masterton 2, O'Neill)
STENHOUSEMUIR (0) 0 800

EAST FIFE (0) 0
STRANRAER (0) 2 (Black, Sweeney) 700

Monday, August 31

Football League Cup

(First Round, second-leg)

WIGAN (1) 3 (Lloyd, Quinn, Houghton)
STOCKPORT (0) 0 5,079

First Division

MANCHESTER UTD 0
NOTT'M FOREST 0 51,496
Man Utd: Bailey, Gidman, Albiston, Wilkins, McQueen, Buchan, Coppell, Birtles, Stapleton, Macari, McLroy.
Nottm Forest: Shilton, Anderson, Gray, McGovern, Burns, Aas, Francis, Ward, Fashanu, Proctor, Robertson.

Tuesday, September 1

First Division

BIRMINGHAM (1) 1 (Evans)
IPSWICH (0) 1 (Brazil) 17,328
Birmingham: Wealds, Langan, Dennis, Dillon, Broadhurst, Todd, Brocken, Whatmore, Evans, Gemmill, Van Mierlo.
Ipswich: Cooper, Mills, McCall, Thijssen, Osman, Butcher, Wark, Muhren, Mariner, Brazil, Gates.

BRIGHTON (1) 1 (Ritchie)
SWANSEA (2) 2 (James (L), Latchford) 19,885
Brighton: Moseley, Shanks, Williams, Grealish (Smith), Foster, Stevens, Case, Ritchie, Robinson, McNab, Ryan.
Swansea: Davies, Robinson, Hadziabdic, Rajkovic, Irwin, Mahoney, Curtis, James (R), James (L) (Attley), Charles, Latchford.



Ipswich's Alan Brazil, on target at Birmingham.

LIVERPOOL (0) 1 (Neal pen)
MIDDLESBROUGH (1) 1 (Shearer) 31,963
Liverpool: Grobelaar, Neal, Lawrenson, Thompson, Kennedy (R), (Johnston), Hansen, Dalglish, Lee, Johnson, McDermott, Souness.
Middlesbrough: Platt, McCreesh, Bolton, Hedley, Baxter, McAndrew, Woof, Otto, Hodgson, Shearer (Cochrane), Angus.

NOTTS CO (1) 1 (Christie)
MANCHESTER CITY (0) 1 (McDonald) 14,546
Notts Co: Avramovic, Benjamin, O'Brien, Harkouk, Kilcline, Richards, Chiedozi, McCulloch, Christie, Hunt, Hooks (Goodwin).
Manchester City: Williams, Ranson, McDonald, Reid, Power, Caton, O'Neill, Gow, Boyer (Henry), Hutchison, Reeves.

SOUTHAMPTON (1) 4 (Channon 2, Keegan, Moran)
WOLVES (0) 1 (Clarke) 21,315
Southampton: Wells, Golac, Holmes, Baker, Whitlock, Waldron, Keegan, Channon, Moran, Armstrong, Ball (Puckett).
Wolves: Bradshaw, Palmer, Parkin, Daniel, Gallagher, Villazan, Birch (Richards), Hibbert, Gray, Clarke, Matthews.

Second Division

CAMBRIDGE (1) 1 (Spriggs pen)
DERBY (1) 2 (Emery, Swindlehurst) 5,071
Cambridge: Webster, Donaldson, Murray, Reilly, Fallon, O'Neill, Polycarpou, Spriggs, Goldsmith, Streete, Finney.
Derby: Jones, Coop, Richards, Powell, Ramage, Spooner, Emery, Reid, Hector, Swindlehurst, Buckley.

Q.P.R. (1) 1 (King)
LUTON (0) 2 (Aizlewood, Hill) 18,703
QPR: Burridge, Gregory, Fenwick, Waddock, Hazell, Roeder, Flanagan, Francis, Allen, King, Stainrod.
Luton: Findlay, Stephens, Aizlewood, Horton, Saxby, Donaghy, Hill, Stein, White, Antic, Ingram.

SHREWSBURY (1) 1 (Atkins)
BLACKBURN (0) 2 (Lowey, Brotherston) 4,220
Shrewsbury: Wardle, Leonard, Johnston, Potts, Griffin, Keay, Tong, McNally, Atkins, Bates, Dugworth.
Blackburn: Gennoe, Brannigan, Rathbone, Speight, Hamilton, Miller, Burke, Lowey, Crawford, Brotherston.

WATFORD (0) 0
GRIMSBY (0) 2 (Ford 2) 11,257
Watford: Sherwood, Rice, Henderson, Taylor, Sims, Bolton, Callaghan, Blissett, Armstrong, Jackett, Poskett.
Grimsby: Batch, Stone, Crombie, Waters, Wigginton, Moore, Broily, Whymark (Ford), Drinkell, Mitchell, Kilmore.

Football League Cup

(First Round first-leg)

ALDRSHOT 0
WIMBLEDON 0 2,098

BOURNEMOUTH (0) 0
FULHAM (1) 1 (Davies) 3,935

BOLTON (1) 2 (Kidd, Thomas)
OLDHAM (0) 1 (Atkinson) 5,156

BRISTOL CITY (2) 2 (Harford, Mann)
WALSALL (0) 0 3,906

BURY (1) 3 (Johnson pen, Madden 2)
CARLISLE (1) 3 (Coady, Haig, Lee) 2,247

COLCHESTER (1) 2 (Bremner, Allinson pen)
GILLINGHAM (0) 0 2,431

DARLINGTON (0) 1 (Walsh)
ROTHERHAM (1) 3 (Smith (o.g.), Henson, Fern) 3,042

DONCASTER 0
CHESTERFIELD 0 3,801

HALIFAX (0) 1 (Davison)
PRESTON (2) 2 (Clark, Naughton) 2,719

HUDDERSFIELD (3) 3 (Fletcher 2, Wilson)
ROCHDALE (0) 1 (Cooper) 6,713

NORTHAMPTON (1) 2 (Denyer, Alexander)
HARTLEPOOL (0) 0 1,480

ORIENT (1) 1 (Moores)
MILLWALL (1) 1 (Horrix) 4,568

SCUNTHORPE 0
MANSFIELD 0 2,249

SHEFF UTD (0) 1 (Kenworthy pen)
YORK (0) 0 6,702

TRANMERE (1) 4 (Stevenson (o.g.), Kerr, Brown 2)
BURNLEY (0) 2 (Potts, Hamilton) 2,025

WREXHAM (2) 3 (Vinter, Edwards, Davis)
SWINDON (0) 2 (Davis (o.g.), Carter pen) 2,068

Wednesday, September 2

First Division

LEEDS (1) 1 (Graham)
EVERTON (1) 1 (Bailey) 26,502
Leeds: Lukic, Greenhoff, Gray (E), Flynn, Hart, Cherry, Harris, Graham, Parlano, Stevenson, Barnes.
Everton: Arnold, Wright, Ratcliffe, Walsh, Lyons, Thomas, McMahon, Eastoe, Biley, Hartford, Ainscow.

STOKE (2) 4 (Chapman 2, Heath 2)
COVENTRY (0) 0 13,914
Stoke: Fox, Evans, Hampton, Dodd, O'Callaghan, Doyle, Griffiths, Heath, Chapman, Bracewell, McGuire.
Coventry: Blyth, Thomas, Roberts, Jacobs, Dyson, Gillespie, Bodak (Kaiser), Daly, Thompson, Whittton, Hunt.

SUNDERLAND (1) 2 (Ritchie, Rowell)
ASTON VILLA (1) 1 (Donovan) 29,372
Sunderland: Turner, Hinnigan, Munro, Buckley, Clarke, Hindmarch, Chisholm, Ritchie, Cooke (McCoist), Royell, Pickering.
Aston Villa: Rimmer, Swain, Gibson, Evans, Ormsby, Mortimer, Bremner, Donovan, Withe, Cowans, Morley.

TOTTENHAM (0) 0
WEST HAM (1) 4 (Cross 4) 41,200
Tottenham: Clemence, Roberts, Miller, Price (Smith), Villa, Perryman, Hazard, Brooke, Galvin, Hoddle, Falco.
West Ham: Parkes, Stewart, Lampard, Bonds, Martin, Devonshire, Neighbour, Goddard, Cross, Allen, Pike.

WBA (0) 0
ARSENAL (2) 2 (Talbot, Sunderland) 17,104
WBA: Godden, Batson, Statham, Moses, Wile, Robertson, Robson, Mills, Deehan, Owen, Mackenzie.
Arsenal: Jennings, Devine, Sansom, Talbot, O'Leary, Young, Davis, Sunderland, McDermott, Nicholas, Rix.

Second Division

NORWICH (1) 1 (Cannon (o.g.))
C. PALACE (0) 0 14,434
Norwich: Woods, Nightingale, Downs, McGuire, Walford, Watson, Barham, Shepherd, Bertschin, Paddon (Mendham), Jack.
Palace: Barton, Hinshelwood, Dare, Price, Cannon, Gilbert, Smillie, Bason, Walsh, Langley, Brooks (Lovell).

Football League Cup

(First Round, first-leg)

BRADFORD (1) 3 (Gallagher, Campbell, Greenall (o.g.))
BLACKPOOL (1) 1 (Bamber) 3,374

CARDIFF (1) 2 (Stevens 2)
EXETER (0) 1 (Cooke) 2,688

CREWE (1) 1 (Ricketts)
BRISTOL R (1) 1 (Mabbutt) 2,137

HEREFORD (1) 1 (Phillips)
PORT VALE (0) 1 (Moss) 2,817

LINCOLN (1) 3 (Shipleigh, Hobson, Cunningham)
HULL (0) 0 3,498

OXFORD (1) 1 (Cassells)
BRENTFORD (0) 0 3,621

PETERBOROUGH (1) 2 (Slack, Cooke)
BARNLEY (2) 3 (Glavin 2, Joyce) 4,508

READING (0) 2 (Earles, Hetzke pen)
CHARLTON (1) 2 (Lansdowne, Hales pen) 3,622

SOUTHEND 0
PORTSMOUTH 0 4,887

TORQUAY (0) 2 (Cooper, Fell)
NEWPORT (2) 3 (Aldridge, Oakes, Moore) 2,514

Scottish League Cup

(Quarter-Finals, first-leg)

ABERDEEN (4) 5 (Cooper, Strachan 2 (1 pen), Bell, McCall)
BERWICK (0) 0 5,000

BRECHIN (0) 0
RANGERS (2) 4 (Russell, Jackson, McLean pen, Redford) 7,000

HAMILTON (0) 0
DUNDEE UTD (2) 4 (Dodds 2, Holt, Bannon pen) 4,600

LINE-UPS...RESULTS...

Friday, September 4

Third Division

SOUTHEND (0) 0
NEWPORT (1) 4 (Aldridge, Tynan, Gwyther, Elsey) 4,620

Fourth Division

COLCHESTER (2) 4 (Allinson 2 (1 pen), Cook, Bremner)
TRANMERE (0) 0 2,474

STOCKPORT (3) 4 (Coyle 2, Uzelac, Williams)
ALDERSHOT (2) 2 (Sanford 2) 2,239

YORK (1) 2 (Waldron, Walwyn)
NORTHAMPTON (0) 1 (Phillips) 2,086

Saturday, September 5

First Division

BIRMINGHAM (2) 4 Broadhurst, Evans, Whatmore 2
NOTTM. FOREST (2) 3 (Wallace 3) 19,035
 Birmingham: Wealands, Langan, Dennis, Todd, Broadhurst, Dillon, Brocken, Whatmore, Evans, Gemmill, Van Mierlo.
 Nottm. Forest: Shilton, Anderson, Gray, McGovern, Aas, Burns, Mills, Wallace, Fashanu, Proctor, Robertson.

BRIGHTON (1) 2 (Case, Otto (og))
MIDDLESBROUGH (0) 0 13,386
 Brighton: Mosley, Shanks, Foster, Stevens, Williams, Case, Grealish, McNab, Ryan, Ritchie (Smith), Robinson.
 Middlesbrough: Platt, McCreesh, Baxter, McAndrew, Bolton, Hedley, Otto, Angus, Woof (Cochrane), Hodgson, Shearer

LEEDS (1) 3 (Graham 3)
WOLVES (0) 0 20,216
 Leeds: Lukic, Greenhoff, Gray (E), Flynn, Firm, Cherry, Harris, Graham, Parlano, Stevenson, Barnes.
 Wolves: Bradshaw, Palmer, Parkin, Daniel, Gallagher (Richards), Villazan, Birch, Hibbitt, Gray, Clarke Matthews.

LIVERPOOL (1) 2 (McDermott, Johnson)
ARSENAL (0) 0 35,269
 Liverpool: Grobbelaar, Neal, Lawrenson, Thompson, Kennedy (R), Hansen, Dalglish, Lee, Johnson, McDermott, Souness (Johnston).
 Arsenal: Jennings, Devine, Sansom, Talbot, O'Leary, Young, Hollins, Sunderland, McDermott, Nicholas (Davis), Rix

MANCHESTER UTD. (1) 1 (Stapleton)
IPSWICH (2) 2 (Brazil, Wark) 45,645
 Man. Utd. Bailey, Gidman, Albiston, Wilkins, McQueen, Buchan, Coppell, Birtles, Stapleton, McIlroy (Duxbury), Macari
 Ipswich: Cooper, Mills, McCall, Thijssen, Osman, Butcher, Wark, Muhren, Mariner, Brazil, Gates.

NOTTS COUNTY (1) 2 (Christie, Hunt)
COVENTRY (0) 1 (Daly) 10,899
 Notts Co: Avramovic, Benjamin, O'Brien, Goodwin, Kilcline, Richards, Chiedoie, McCulloch, Christie, Hunt, Hooks.
 Coventry: Blyth, Thomas, Roberts, Jacobs, Dyson, Gillespie, Kaiser, Daly, Thompson, Whitton, Hunt.

SOUTHAMPTON (0) 1 (Keegan pen)
EVERTON (0) 0 21,624
 Southampton: Wells, Golac, Holmes, Baker, Nicholl, Waldron, Keegan, Channon, Moran, Ball, Armstrong.
 Everton: Arnold, Wright, Ratcliffe, Walsh, Lyons, McMahon, (Ferguson), Ainscow, Biley, Eastoe, Hartford, Thomas.

STOKE (0) 1 (Chapman)
MANCHESTER CITY (1) 3 (Francis 2, Boyer) 25,526
 Stoke: Fox, Evans, Hampton, Doyle, O'Callaghan, Dodd, Griffiths, Heath, Chapman, Bracewell, Maguire (Ursem).
 Man. City: Corrigan, Ranson, McDonald, O'Neill, Caton, Reid, Gow, Reeves, Francis, Power (Boyer), Hutchison.

SUNDERLAND (0) 0
WEST HAM (1) 2 (Goddard, Cross) 28,347
 Sunderland: Turner, Hinnigan, Munro, Buckley, Clarke, Hindmarsh, Chisholm, Cooke, Ritchie, Rowell, Pickering (McCoist).
 West Ham: Parkes, Stewart, Lampard, Bonds, Martin, Devonshire, Neighbour, Goddard (Pearson), Cross, Allen, Pike

TOTTENHAM (0) 1 (Villa)
ASTON VILLA (3) 3 (Mortimer, Donovan 2) 31,265
 Tottenham: Clemence, Parryman, Miller (Lacy), Smith, Roberts, Villa, Brooke, Ardiles, Jones, Hoddle, Falco.
 A. Villa: Rimmer, Swain, Gibson, Evans, Ormsby, Mortimer, Bremner, Donovan, Withe, Cowans, Morley.

WBA (1) 4 (Regis 3, Mackenzie) 18,063
SWANSEA (0) 1 (Robinson)
 WBA: Godden, Batson, Statham, Moses, Wile, Robertson, Robson, Mills, Regis, Owen, Mackenzie.
 Swansea: Davies, Robinson, Hadziabdic, Rajkovic, Irwin, Mahoney, Curtis, James (R), James (L), Charles (Attley), Latchford.

Second Division

BOLTON (0) 1 (Gowling)
LUTON (0) 2 (Stein, Aizlewood) 6,911
 Bolton: McDonagh, Nicholson, Bennett, McElhinney, Jones, Gowling, Thomas, Kidd, Hoggan, Cantello, Reid.
 Luton: Findlay, Stevens, Aizlewood, Horton, Saxby, Donaghy, Hill, Stein, White, Antic, Ingram (Small).

CAMBRIDGE (2) 3 (Finney 2, Streete)
ROTHERHAM (0) 0 4,385
 Cambridge: Webster, Donaldson, Murray, Reilly, Fallon, O'Neill, Streete, Spriggs, Goldsmith, Gibbons, Finney.
 Rotherham: Mountford, Forrest, Taylor, Green (Gooding), Stancliffe, Mullen, Towner, Seesman, Moore, Fern, Henson.

CARDIFF (1) 1 (Kitchen)
CHELSEA (1) 2 (Mayes 2) 8,898
 Cardiff: Healey, Jones, Dwyer, Pontin, Sullivan, Grapes (Micallef), Ronson, Buchanan, Lewis, Stevens, Kitchen.
 Chelsea: Borota, Locke, Pates, Rofe, Droy (Driver), Bumstead, Walker, Viljoen, Lee, Mayes, Fillery.

CHARLTON (1) 2 (McAllister, Walsh)
BLACKBURN (0) 0 6,141
 Charlton: Johns, Naylor, Harrison, Smith (Robinson), McAllister, Phillips, Walker, Walsh, Lansdowne, Ferns.
 Blackburn: Gennoe, Hamilton, Rathbone, Branagan, Keeley (Williamson), Stonehouse, Miller, Burke, Lowey, Crawford, Brotherston



Charlton's Derek Hales tests the Blackburn defence.

LEICESTER (0) 1 (Hamill)
WREXHAM (0) 0 12,905
 Leicester: Wallington, Williams, Gibson, Peake, May, O'Neill, Lynex, Melrose (McDonald), Lineker, Wilson, Hamill.
 Wrexham: Niedzwiecki, Dowman, Jones, Davis, Cegielski, McNeil, Fox, Hill, Edwards, Buxton (Hunt), Carrodus.

NORWICH (1) 1 (Jack)
BARNLEY (1) 1 (Parker) 13,677
 Norwich: Woods, Nightingale, Downs, Barham, Watson, Walford, McGuire, Jack, Bertschin, Paddon (Mendham), Shepherd.
 Barnley: Horn, Joyce, Chambers, Glavin, Evans, McCarthy, McHale, Banks, Parker, Aylott, Barrowclough.

ORIENT (1) 1 (Taylor (P))
GRIMSBY (2) 2 (Ford, Kilmore) 3,764
 Orient: Day, Fisher, Roffey, Margerrison, Taylor (T), Gray, Godfrey, Bowles, Jennings, Moores, Taylor (P).
 Grimsby: Batch, Stone, Crombie, Waters, Wigginton, Moore, Brolly, Ford, Drinkell, Kilmore (Cumming), Mitchell.

Q.P.R. (1) 3 (King, Roeder, Stainrod)
NEWCASTLE (0) 0 14,176
 Q.P.R.: Burridge, Gregory, Fenwick, Currie, Hazell, Roeder, Flanagan, Francis, Allen (Gillard), King, Stainrod.
 Newcastle: Carr, Haddock, Davies, Trewick, Barton, Halliday, Walker, Shoulder, Varadi, Wharton (Martin), Waddle.

SHEFFIELD WED (0) 1 (Bannister)
CRYSTAL PALACE (0) 0 18,476
 Sheff. Wed.: Bolder, Blackhall, Williamson, Megson, Shirliff, Smith, Taylor, Mirocevic, McCulloch, Bannister, Curran.
 C. Palace: Barron, Hinshelwood, Dare, Price, Cannon, Gilbert, Smilie (Hughes), Langley, Walsh, Lovell, Basom.

SHREWSBURY (1) 4 (Atkins 2, Bates, Tong)
DERBY (0) 1 (Swindlehurst) 4,373
 Shrewsbury: Wardle, Leonard, Johnston, Petts, Griffin, MacLaren, Tong, McNally, Atkins, Biggins, Bates.
 Derby: Jones, Coop, Richards, Powell (S), Ramage, Spooner, Emery, Reid, Hector, Swindlehurst, Buckley.

WATFORD (0) 1 (Armstrong)
OLDHAM (0) 1 (Palmer) 9,018
 Watford: Sherwood, Rice, Pritchett, Taylor, Sims, Bolton, Callaghan, Blissett, Armstrong, Jackett, Poskett.
 Oldham: McDonnell, Hoolickin, Ryan, Keegan, Clements, Fletcher, Wyde (McDonough), Atkinson, Steel, Palmer, Heaton.

Third Division

BRENTFORD 0
WALSALL 0 5,350

BRISTOL CITY (2) 2 (Mabbutt, Harford)
DONCASTER (0) 2 (Dawson, Mell) 6,586

BURNLEY (0) 1 (Dobson pen)
PLYMOUTH (0) 0 4,022

CHESTER 0
SWINDON 0 1,798

CHESTERFIELD (1) 2 (Kowalski, Bonnyman)
BRISTOL RVRS (0) 0 3,501

EXETER (0) 2 (Hatch, Kellow)
CARLISLE (0) 1 (Robson) 3,533

LINCOLN (0) 1 (Shipley pen)
FULHAM (0) 1 (Beck) 3,934

OXFORD (0) 1 (Foley)
HUDDERSFIELD (0) 0 3,976

PRESTON (1) 1 (Bruce)
PORTSMOUTH (0) 0 6,112

READING (0) 3 (Beavon, Heale, Hetzke)
GILLINGHAM (0) 2 (Lee, Price) 3,496

WIMBLEDON (0) 1 (Joseph)
MILLWALL (1) 3 (Anderson, Dibble 2) 5,102

Fourth Division

DARLINGTON (1) 1 (Speedie)
PORT VALE (0) 1 (Deakin pen) 1,872

HALIFAX (0) 1 (Davison)
PETERBOROUGH (0) 1 (Cooke) 1,809

HEREFORD (1) 3 (White 2, Phillips)
BURY (0) 0 2,508

HULL (1) 2 (Mutrie, Ferguson)
BRADFORD (0) 1 (Campbell) 3,916

MANFIELD (0) 0
BOURNEMOUTH (0) 1 (Edmunds) 2,950

ROCHDALE (1) 2 (Martinez, Goodwin)
HARTLEPOOL (1) 1 (Houchen) 1,481

SCUNTHORPE (0) 1 (Oates)
BLACKPOOL (0) 1 (Noble) 2,200

WIGAN (0) 0
SHEFF UTD (1) 1 (Kenworthy) 8,001

Scottish Premier

ABERDEEN (1) 1 (Strachan pen)
CELTIC (2) 3 (Burns, McGarvey 2) 20,000
 Aberdeen: Leighton, Kennedy, Cooper, Watson, McLeish, Miller, Strachan, Bell (McMaster), McGhee (Cowan), McCall, Hewitt.
 Celtic: Bonner, McGrain, Reid, Aitken, McAdam, McLeod, Provan, Sullivan, McGarvey, Burns, McCluskey.

BIG MATCHES OF THE DAY

Saturday, September 26th

Arsenal v Man. United

IT is now more than 13 years since United last won at Highbury. That was a 2-0 victory (Peter Storey o.g. and George Best) in February, 1968. In the intervening period they have drawn three and lost nine First Division games on this ground, their longest run without a win in a total of 62 League visits to the Arsenal. Indeed, in those last 12 League games United have only once succeeded in scoring more than a single goal — a 2-2 draw in 1969-70.

Aston Villa v Birmingham

ALTHOUGH Aston Villa generally held the upper-hand in the earlier days of this 87-year-old series of League derby games at Villa Park The Blues have enjoyed a much improved record on this ground since World War Two. During this period the visitors have won seven and drawn four of their 19 visits, including two victories in their last four games at Villa Park.

Last December over 41,000 spectators saw Villa come through with three goals, two from Dave Geddis and the other from Gary Shaw.

Everton v W.B.A.

ALBION have won only two of their last 21 League games at Goodison but they have drawn there nine times in the same period, including each of the last two games.

One of the most hectic tussles between these two clubs was that in September, 1966 when Albion were 4-1 down at Goodison but levelled the score before Alan Ball got Everton's winner with a late penalty.

This will be the 62nd League clash between these two clubs in Liverpool. Everton's biggest win was 7-1 back in 1893, while the visitors won 5-2 in 1919.

Man. City v Tottenham

IT isn't all that long since City thrashed Spurs 5-0 at Maine Road — May 7th, 1977 was the date. However, that was the season in which Spurs finished bottom of the First Division and we shall be expecting something better from them this Saturday.

Spurs have won only six and drawn nine of their 41 League visits to Manchester City, and all of those games they have only once scored more than a couple of goals. That was in February, 1922 when they drew 3-3 and went on to finish League Championship runners-up.

West Ham v Liverpool

IN recent years no side has enjoyed a better record at Upton Park than Liverpool, who have won five, drawn two, and lost only one of their last eight First Division games on this ground.

Their biggest victory here was in one of their Championship-winning campaigns, 1965-66, when Roger Hunt got a hat-trick and The Hammers went down 5-1. More recently, in another of their Championship-winning seasons, 1975-76, The Reds got four goals without reply at Upton Park, including a hat-trick from John Toshack.

ALAN Hansen, the stylish Liverpool and Scotland sweeper, has no doubts about how much he owes Jock Stein for his international career.

You see, Hansen believes other managers might have ditched him after a disastrous debut he made for his country against Wales.

"Jock Stein was a brave man picking me again after that," insists the tall Anfield ace. "I didn't think I would ever get back into the team, but he stood by me. That's how I've managed to win the caps I have picked up so far."

It's also why Hansen is back in a duel for the Scotland position which must remind him so much of the battle with Emlyn Hughes which brought him problems in his early days with Liverpool.

Then Hughes was England captain and Hansen recalls: "There were times when I'd been in the team and then when Emlyn was fit again out I went. I didn't like it too much, but it was something I had to accept for a while until I was able to establish myself as the first choice."

Now he has a similar battle with Aberdeen's Willie Miller, whose club partnership with Alex McLeish has been repeated at the

HANSEN'S DEBT TO JOCK STEIN

Willie Miller (below, dark shirt) was one of Scotland's outstanding successes in their win against England at Wembley.



heart of the Scotland defence when Hansen has been unavailable.

It's been successful too, particularly at Wembley when Miller was one of the outstanding Scots in the win over England.

Hansen watched that game and admits: "Willie was marvellous that day. He must have been upset when he was left out for our recent game against Sweden after playing so well. But I'd have been disappointed, too, if I wasn't in the Scotland side."

"It's up to Mr Stein. He will pick the player he wants to have in the team and I'm sure that Willie, and myself, will accept that."

"What matters most of all to any of us who are members of the squad just now is getting to Spain and playing in the World Cup Finals."

"I missed out the last time. Then I was just breaking into the Liverpool team so I didn't expect to get into the Scotland side."

"But after playing for Liverpool in two European Cup Finals and getting winners' medals each time, I now want to play in the World Cup. It's the biggest thing a player can take part in, after all."

"And our 2-0 win over the Swedes at Hampden Park recently has left us needing just one point to guarantee our place in Spain. I'm sure we'll make it after coming this far. Confidence is sky-high, and we're all geared to winning for Scotland."

Personnel

Hansen typifies the 'family' atmosphere Stein has brought to the Scotland squad.

The Liverpool defender insists: "We know that certain games will require personnel changes but I think everyone in the squad knows that the boss won't be making rash changes."

"He has experimented. When he first took over, he did that. Then he tried something out against Wales in the British Championship in the summer, but that was when quite

a few of us were missing because of club demands.

"I don't think he'll make too many changes now because he has a squad with a settled look about it. Honestly, it's very important to all of us to stay in his plans."

Hansen has the kind of skills which would grace the last stages of football's biggest extravaganza.

There are times when it seems that he takes too many chances, when he looks as if he is trying to be that little bit too clever in his own penalty box. He doesn't see it that way, though.

"I know what I'm doing out there on the field," he tells you.

"Maybe other people get worried, but there's just something that tells me I can handle situations even when there might be two or three opponents around me."

"I've always been that way and I don't suppose I'm going to change now."

It would be better if he didn't. He has the same casual arrogance of Franz Beckenbauer and that comparison with the great West



German is one which springs readily to mind. Hansen, mind you, doesn't like it.

"Beckenbauer," he says, "is a one-off. There will never be anyone else like him. He is the best there has ever been."

No one would dispute that too heatedly. But there are good judges who would still liken the 26-year-old Scot to the Hamburg sweeper.

If Scotland reach Spain then the world can judge his skills... the kind of skills which Continentals admire so much.

Yet Hansen doesn't see himself ever moving to Europe.

"I don't think I'd like it," he claims. "Liverpool have been marvellous to me and I love playing here. If I ever went to Europe it would only be to make big money. It wouldn't be because I'd enjoy the game more there, or that I'd get more success."

"Money isn't the most important thing. I've won five medals with Liverpool so far and you couldn't buy these. That's what's so great about playing at Anfield."

The World Cup Finals is the one stage left for Hansen's ability. It is the kind of stage made for the one time Partick Thistle man.

FOOTBALL FUNNIES



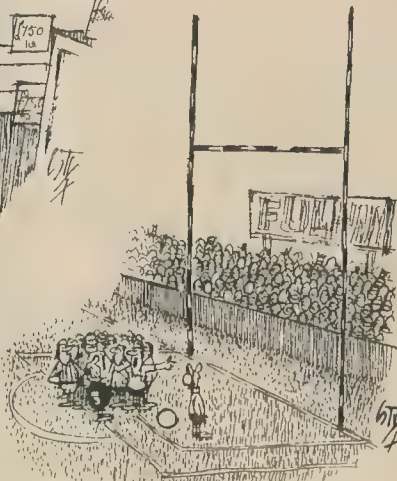
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My answers are:

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3.....

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ALEX McLEISH, Aberdeen's outstanding international defender, must have wondered if he had stepped from a soccer dreamworld into a nightmare.

Last season had finished on a glorious high note with a magnificent performance in the heart of the Scottish defence alongside his Pittodrie colleague Willie Miller as Jock Stein's men beat England 1-0 at Wembley.

Even before the new season began officially he had played an immense part in Aberdeen winning their own Caledonian Cup, beating West Ham and Southampton in successive days at Pittodrie.

And then things started to go drastically wrong. Nothing was going according to plan.

"Dundee United beat us 4-1 in the opening League match at Tannadice," recalls McLeish with obvious pain at the memory. "We were 3-0 down at the interval and just never got going.

"And then Celtic beat us 3-1 at Pittodrie a week later to put us at the bottom of the Premier Division. That's not the form that is now associated with Aberdeen.

"I even thought I had blown my chance of playing for Scotland in the recent World Cup-tie against Sweden at Hampden. I wouldn't have been surprised if Mr Stein had overlooked me.

'Ability'

"Thankfully, he showed faith in my ability and selected me. That meant an awful lot to me. It certainly perked me up, I can tell you."

McLeish's team-mate Willie Miller wasn't so fortunate, though. He was left on the substitutes' bench, with Liverpool's Alan Hansen claiming the number six shirt.

The loss of seven goals in two League games hurt the pride of both McLeish and Miller and Pittodrie manager Alex Ferguson points out: "Normally they are the lads who carry the team.

"You can always rely upon them to do a good, solid, professional job. Their early form wasn't so good and they know that.

"But they are two highly talented players and I have no doubt they will more than make up for it in the coming months."

The basic errors of the Aberdeen double act have been so out of character and have startled some

McLEISH BOOST



shrewd judges. But boss Ferguson is swift to add: "Remember, there are other players in the defence. It's been a bad period for everyone.

"We've made mistakes and we have got to learn from them and make sure they are not repeated."

A goal that Frank McGarvey scored at Pittodrie emphasised the nightmarish passage which Miller was travelling through at the time.

Mark Reid punted forward a hopeful high ball straight down the middle, normally the sort of tactic that is immediately gobbled up by the smooth back-four man.

On this occasion, however, he hesitated, went for the ball when he had no chance of getting it and the pass swept over his head.

McGarvey raced in on unprotected goalkeeper Jim Leighton before thrashing an unstoppable drive into the net.

'Tournament'

"Possibly we played TOO well in our pre-season tournament," says McLeish. "We scored three goals against West Ham and took another five off Southampton.

"Maybe we expected things to happen rather than going out and making sure they did. We won't make that mistake again."

Alex McLeish and Willie Miller will certainly get over this unforeseen hurdle and become once again the dependable, highly-rated defenders that everyone knows they can be.

A relaxed Aberdeen after scoring five goals against Southampton to win the Caledonian Cup. But things have not gone so well for The Dons since then, and they were left at the foot of the Premier Division table.



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ST. MIRREN manager Ricky McFarlane is one of football's deep thinkers, but is never going to be any rival to the likes of Brian Clough and John Bond when it comes to making extravagant predictions.

However, in the unlikely setting of trim little Broomfield after a League game against Airdrie, he made a claim that was slightly out of character.

"Some of the things Billy Stark did out there were world class," he said after his side's remarkable 4-3 victory after being 3-2 down with only two minutes left to play.

"I really mean that. Billy did things that only belong to top players. I thought he was brilliant and I'm looking for big things from him this season."

Stark is not a player who pushes for headlines, but fans of the Love Street team will tell you that he is more valuable to St. Mirren than Peter Weir, the international outside-left who was sold to Aberdeen in a Scottish record-breaking transfer deal of £320,000 in the close season.

Unassuming

"My role has changed this term," says the unassuming Stark. "I'm playing deeper in midfield now as opposed to standing out on the right wing."

"I'm seeing more of the ball and I'm enjoying that. I like to drive forward from the middle of the park and I just hope that everything clicks into place."

"Ambitions? Yes, I've got plenty of those. For a start, I want to see a major trophy brought to Love Street and I think we have a side capable of achieving that."

"Remember, it was us who put Celtic out of the League Cup this season and that's the first time in 18 years the lads from Parkhead



St. Mirren manager Ricky McFarlane.

haven't qualified for the latter stages of this tournament.

"I've played for the Scottish Under-21 side and I've enjoyed the international atmosphere. The next logical step is the full international team and that's got to be my aim."

Ricky McFarlane, already involved in the international set-up alongside supremo Jock Stein in running the Under-21 line-up, has also been impressed by the 'new look' Stark.

He says: "Yes, Billy has adapted well to the new role, but he has so much talent he could probably do a good job anywhere in the team."

"Billy has the talent to get away from players, running on and off the ball."

"The two best exponents of running off the ball I've seen in British football are Ipswich's Alan Brazil and Dundee United's Paul

Sturrock.

"It's quite uncanny the way these two players drift into positions. One minute you'll see them out on the left, the next they're on the right. Then you'll see them charging through the middle."

"Billy is a very similar type of player. Opposing defences can never afford to take their eyes off him, because he just seems to appear from nowhere. I am looking to see Billy maintain this early form right through the season and help St. Mirren to glory."

Billy Stark, like manager McFarlane, isn't one to make proud boasts, but he says: "I think this can be a big season for myself and the club."

'WORLD-CLASS' STARK



Stark races clear of Celtic's Murdo MacLeod (right), with St. Mirren team-mate Jim Bone in assistance.





DUNDEE manager Donald Mackay is nothing if not honest. He looks at his newly promoted side and says frankly: "I know we don't have the talent of other teams in

the Premier Division.

"We don't have the player resources of several others and that means we have a season of hard work in front of us.

"We will stay in the Top Ten if we play with enthusiasm and fight for the entire 90 minutes. Determination is the key word at Dens Park these days."

It's a daunting task for Mackay and his cohorts. The former Dundee United goalkeeper has to get the Dens Park fans talking about today's team rather than reminis-

ing about the great line-up of the early 60's.

Those days of triumph must seem a long time gone with the team failing to make any penetration since the Premier Division

came to life seven years ago. Relegation has hit the once-proud Dens Park outfit, defeats have become commonplace, disappointments have been numerous.

It is in this climate that Donald Mackay took over from Tommy Gemmell over a year ago. Names

BACK ROW (left to right): Eric Sinclair, George McGeachie, Ian MacDonald, Bobby Geddes, Bobby Glennie, Brian Scrimgeour, Les Barr, CENTRE ROW: Peter Mackie, Ray Stephen, Ian Ferguson, Chic McLelland, John Fletcher, Jimmy Murphy, Ian Fleming.

FRONT ROW: Stewart McKimmie, Andy Geddes, Ken Wilmhurst (coach), Donald Mackay (manager), Eric Ferguson (physio), Eric Schaedler, Cammy Fraser.

such as Billy Bremner and Peter Lorimer were linked with the post before the hot seat was given to Mackay.

He made no promises he couldn't keep. He made one pledge, however, to the Dundee supporters.

"I want to be able to put out a side that will do Dundee proud," he said. "It's my aim to bring back the good old days to Dens Park."

"I'm confident the fans will respond if they get what they are looking for. I want a team that can go forward and excite."

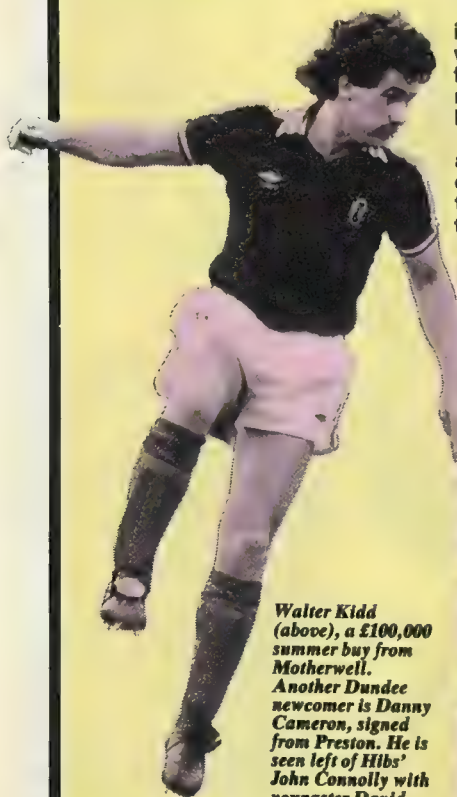
"That's Dundee's tradition and I aim to keep it going. There's a lot of hard graft ahead. But that doesn't frighten me. It makes me all the more determined."

Last season was fairly successful compared with recent years. Dundee, did, after all, clinch promotion and that had been their main aim right from the kick-off.

"Yes, things are coming together," says Mackay, "but this race is a marathon and not a sprint."

"If we apply ourselves properly to the tasks that lie ahead then we can stay in the Premier Division and then build upon that."

CLUB SPOTLIGHT



Walter Kidd (above), a £100,000 summer buy from Motherwell. Another Dundee newcomer is Danny Cameron, signed from Preston. He is seen left of Hibs' John Connolly with youngster David Bell.



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Peter Withe gets up to challenge Brazil's Oscar during his international debut at Wembley.

'Peter . . . Withe-out doubt!'



ALLAN EVANS (Aston Villa)

I AM glad Peter Withe is on my side at Villa Park because he is such a terrier in going for possession. I rate him as easily the best target man in the country. But if you are going to play to that style then you must have a man who is fast and ready to take the tap-ons alongside him. I would still back Trevor Francis for that job, which was the way England finished in Oslo. But the switch did not come early enough. Looking ahead, I would back another club-mate, Gary Shaw, for one of the places; I think he has a great future.

JOHN WILE (West Brom)

I HAVE always considered Paul Mariner as effective as anyone but he must stay in the middle and not go wide. His role for England seemed to be different from what it is for Ipswich. Kevin Keegan's best position is up alongside him. Ron Greenwood's choice of a big

fellow down the middle is limited but he must wish that his players reproduced their club form. As to the future, Justin Fashanu still has much to prove. Our own Cyrille Regis has the ability to be among the contenders; this could be a make or break season for him.



SHOOT tries to find out who is ENGLAND'S BEST

JOHN Robertson jinked down the wing and past his marker to send over one of those pin-point crosses that have become his hallmark. The ball went to the far post where Trevor Francis, running in, headed the ball high in the net from a narrow angle.

That happened when Nottingham Forest won the 1979 European Cup Final against Malmö and when Trevor missed a very similar header in the closing stages of England's defeat in Norway, fans could have been excused for asking: why don't England stars show their club form for their country?

Of course Trevor has missed goals for Birmingham City, Nottingham Forest and Manchester City. There isn't a striker who doesn't miss the occasional sitter.

Yet it's still a fact that too many England forwards look impressive in the First Division — and, indeed, in European competitions — yet when they pull on the white shirt of England something happens.

So who should carry the burden to score goals for England now? Here are the figures of the current

England goal men:

KEEGAN.....	58 caps — 20 goals
COPPELL.....	33 caps — 6 goals
WOODCOCK.....	19 caps — 6 goals
BROOKING.....	43 caps — 5 goals
MARINER.....	17 caps — 5 goals
FRANCIS.....	23 caps — 5 goals
MCDERMOTT.....	20 caps — 4 goals
BARNES.....	21 caps — 4 goals
HODDLE.....	8 caps — 3 goals
ROBSON.....	13 caps — 1 goal
WITHE.....	4 caps — 0 goals

Kevin Keegan heads the list, but his last goals (apart from the penalty in Hungary and one against Argentina in 1980) were against the Republic of Ireland in 1979/80.

As England's World Cup future hangs in the balance we asked eight defenders who have played against the best strikers in England who they think should be in Ron Greenwood's firing line.



England skipper Kevin Keegan takes on the Norwegian defence in Oslo, but was unable to prevent the disastrous defeat which places his World Cup aims in jeopardy.

'Keegan so sharp'



BILLY BONDS (West Ham)

I WOULD stick with Trevor Francis and Kevin Keegan. They are both very sharp at the moment though they both like playing off a bigger man. It all depends on what style is adopted. In Oslo, it made no difference who was up there because the service was so poor.

Paul Mariner heads home against the Swiss at Wembley last year.



'Consistent Mariner'

Keegan may not be one of the tallest but when he is in the box he is as good with his head as anybody.

DAVID WATSON (Norwich) PAUL MARINER is the strongest target man I have come up against and I would instruct Trevor Francis to keep close by his side. You must have two working in harness; the system does not work if they are yards apart. As to the future, I rate Justin Fashanu as the most likely to make the grade at international level.

STRIKER

Trevor Francis (right) celebrates a goal against Luxembourg in 1977.



'Skilful Francis'



MIKE LYONS (Everton) ON League form, Paul Mariner and Trevor Francis are as good as any I have seen but the choice up front depends on what attacking system is used. It is no good having a target man unless there is a set plan, and England do not seem to have any pattern. They play too much as individuals. Pick the most skilful players you like, but if you don't win the ball, you can't play with it!

JIM CANNON (Crystal Palace) PAUL MARINER is the most consistent of all the England strikers, though he had a poor game by his standards in Oslo. For sheer flair and ability you must put Trevor Francis next to him and Kevin Keegan just behind rather than keeping him in midfield. As to the future, Clive Allen is as good a finisher as I have seen and along with Gary Shaw looks the most likely to fill the England roles up front.

TREVOR CHERRY (Leeds— capped 27 times for England) I WOULD pick Peter Withe and Gary Shaw and play either Peter Barnes or Steve Coppell on the wing. Withe and Shaw would complement each other very well. Withe is good in the air and keeps the central defender on the alert all the time while Shaw is very fast, a real poacher. Shaw must come into the England line-up and Garry Thompson, of Coventry, could fill Withe's role.

JOE GALLAGHER (Wolves) WHAT England need is some of the old grit and not just flashy players. The best strike-combination would be Peter Withe and Trevor Francis. Peter has the bulldog spirit and Trevor the skill to complement him. Withe puts himself about; he is quick, fearless and experienced. People say Ron Greenwood is obsessed with Continental football but I don't see Ron like that. He needs players who can stand up and be counted. Peter and Trevor are certainly prepared to do that.

YOU ARE THE REF

compiled by Keith Hackett



1 At half-time your linesman informs you he will be unable to resume in the second-half due to injury. Should you abandon the match?

2 A forward with the ball is stopped by a defender who grabs his shirt. Should you: (a) Stop play and award a direct free-kick, or (b) wave play on?

3 You blow your whistle to stop play because a forward is in an offside position. The forward picks up the ball and brings it to you applauding your decision. Should you: (a) Caution him, or (b) take no action?



MATCH POINT

● One disturbing infringement I've noticed as a result of the three points for a win system is the increase in the number of goalkeepers wasting time. Many seem to think that as long as they don't take more than four steps, they can hang on to the ball all day. I haven't had to take any direct action so far, but I can see that refs will have to start awarding indirect free-kicks, and even cautioning 'keepers, if they don't speed things up. And talking about the four steps rule, many 'keepers don't realise that it's not enough to just bounce the ball after taking four paces and then taking another few. I just carry on counting until the 'keeper has clearly released the ball to another player. Once again an indirect free-kick is the punishment. So watch out you 'keepers — you have been warned!

ANSWERS

1. No. You would ask the home club officials to make an announcement over the public address system asking for a replacement. Some clubs in the Football League do have a stand-by official from the local area available. For the F.A. Cup Final I had a reserve linesman standing by already dressed to take over at a moment's notice. 2. The player is guilty of an act of unsporting conduct, and should also be cautioned (a). 3. By picking up the ball and bringing it to you clearly guilty of slowing down play by his actions against your decision (a). Players must refrain from disputing referees' decisions.

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MANCHESTER City are doing their best to keep up with the Manchester United Jones' this season.

United replaced Dave Sexton with a flamboyant young manager in Ron Atkinson. City have got John Bond, a man in the same mould.

United bought a £1 million striker in Frank Stapleton . . . City recently signed Trevor Francis.

Obviously there is deliberate policy at Maine Road to attract more fans and take over as the top team in Manchester.

It might work for a while and they may well win the odd trophy or two, but in the long run there's no way City will overshadow United's pulling power or charisma.

The arrival of John Bond and Trevor Francis over the road has cer-

tainly made life more exciting in Manchester. With the changes at Old Trafford the whole place is alive with expectancy.

Both managers are publicity conscious and eager to sell the game.

I'm only sorry United's disastrous start to the season has been the cause of all the headlines so far.

Ray Wilkins pointed out the problems last week. A lack of commitment on the ball and loss of confidence in certain areas. Let's hope by the time you read this United have recovered from those early setbacks.

As for my own performances, well, I've hardly set the heather alight.

One reporter questioned my fitness. I told him I am fully recovered from the injury that caused me to miss so much of last season. So that is no excuse.

I do agree I've been lethargic, but I've put that down to a general lack of match fitness.

Ron Atkinson hasn't said anything to me. He doesn't seem too concerned at the moment. There's no point in blaming individuals because the whole team has played badly.

Apart from United's disastrous start, I was very upset when Trevor Francis joined City. I wanted him to sign for United.

Indeed for a while it did seem as

City any further now. I'll leave that until my next column which coincides with the big Manchester derby at Maine Road. It's already a sell-out.

United fans are not happy with the present situation, and I don't blame them. All I ask is for them to be a little patient and allow Ron Atkinson and his new signings time to adjust.

The atmosphere has affected all the players. The dressing room has been like a morgue at times. As I said to Martin Buchan after losing to Ipswich at Old Trafford . . . "If only we could start the season over again."

But United travel to Arsenal this

'EVEN WITH FRANCIS CITY WILL NEVER TOP UNITED'

though he was all set for a move to Old Trafford.

Alongside Frank Stapleton, Trevor would have been a tremendous asset on and off the field. Few players in the game today have his crowd pulling power.

After so many disappointments signing Francis was a real Bon-die master-stroke.

Even at over £1 million Trevor's no gamble, as he proved when scoring twice in his debut against Stoke City.

I've played against Trevor many times and have never really mastered him.

Even though he scored with a great header against Southampton this season, he's no great danger in the air. Trevor's strengths are his close control, pace and shooting power.

His injury problems over the years have obviously hampered his career. But for those setbacks I'm sure he would already be recognised as one of the few real world class players we have.

But I won't dwell on Trevor or

Saturday (September 26th) determined to improve on our recent form and avenge last season's 2-1 defeat.

Frank Stapleton's early return to Highbury has created more interest and fervour in a game which has always been one of the glamour highlights of the season.

Frank is a little worried about the reception he will get from the Arsenal fans. I know how he feels. I still get the backlash from Leeds supporters even after three years.

Still, Frank is experienced enough to close his ears to any bad feeling.

Friends

Frank has settled down nicely at United. He's living in an hotel at the moment but his wife is a Manchester lass so they have several friends in the area.

In past seasons I've been content to come away from Arsenal with a point. It's different now with the three points at stake.

I've changed my mind about the new system. At the start I didn't think it would make much difference overall, but United's poor start has made me realise the gap between the clubs at the top and bottom can get so wide it can shatter confidence.

Clubs in the lower half can fall so far behind the leaders the relegation issues might well be settled by Christmas.

See you in two week's time . . .



GORDON McQUEEN
Talking soccer



Gordon comes out on top against Coventry's Steve Whitton (above). Trevor Francis scores on his debut for Man. City at Stoke (right).



Handwritten signature of Gordon McQueen.

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VILLA v BLUES

CHAMPIONS- AT THE DOUBLE!

COLIN
TODD

JIMMY
RIMMER

ASTON VILLA goalkeeper Jimmy Rimmer and Birmingham defender Colin Todd are relishing the prospect of another Second City derby — for different reasons.

Former England goalkeeper Rimmer, a bargain at £75,000 in the present money-mad market, played a key part in Villa's fabulous Championship charge last season, keeping 15 clean sheets.

And Todd, still one of the country's most skilful and accomplished defenders with 27 England caps to his credit, has helped strengthen Birmingham's return to the First Division.

They clash again at Villa Park this Saturday for an eagerly awaited showdown.

Better shape

Villa did the double over their rivals last season to put the damper on Birmingham's promotion to the top flight, but Blues are convinced that they are in better shape this time to bring a smile to St Andrews.

Villa, beaten by both promoted Notts County and Sunderland in the opening games of the season, have already been put to the test but Rimmer insists: "Nothing can be taken for granted just because we're Champions.

"If anything, it's harder because everyone is out to put one across you. We've already set a tremendously high standard and don't need reminding that we've got to stick with the pace."

But Birmingham have been rebuilding with the arrival of flying Dutchmen Tony Van Mierlo and Bud Brocken plus £350,000 striker Neil Whatmore from Bolton.

Van Mierlo and Brocken, snapped up at a total cost of £225,000 from Dutch club Willem II, have quickly created an impact as Blues boss Jim Smith sounds the call for attack.

And it's something that has also caught the imagination of the vastly experienced Todd, who says: "Clubs have also got a duty to entertain as well as get the points. It's not easy but that's the way we're playing it at Birmingham."

Van Mierlo, timed at 10.5 seconds over 100 metres, is clearly no slouch and described as "electrifying" by Ipswich manager Bobby Robson, while Brocken has the ability to hit dangerous crosses.

Add the flair of former England striker Frank Worthington, who has returned from a summer stint in America with Tampa Bay Rowdies, while the England Under-21 midfielder player Kevin Dillon has signed a three-year contract and settled his differences and it's easy to understand Birmingham's confidence.

It's not been lost on Rimmer — especially as he finds himself in the firing line! He says: "The Dutch boys have made a bit of a name for themselves already and from what I've seen look interesting.

"Blues have certainly changed the system. They're looking to play with a much more positive approach and are obviously out to hit sides as much as possible.

"They remind me of Spurs with an early season chase for goals but a little vulnerable at the back. One

thing is for certain — they've got the place buzzing again.

"We took the title and know what it will take to retain it. Birmingham have already added some spice to the picture and that can only be good for the city. The rivalry is really intense and it should be a hell of a derby."

Todd's seen it all before — whether it was in the North-East with Sunderland or on Merseyside with Everton. And that could be a crucial factor on the day, especially with Birmingham's new boys.

'Pressure'

He explained: "Even experienced players like myself sometimes find it tough going in a derby match with all the pressure and atmosphere involving a result that means so much.

"The Dutch boys won't have seen anything quite like it before but they have been quick to settle into the side.

"Birmingham have always been a side capable of playing good football. The problem has been a lack of consistency but that's something we're working on.

"Everyone wants to beat Villa — especially Birmingham. We've had to take stick in recent years while Villa have had their share of glory.

"But now there is a buzz about the place. England's depressing World Cup showing in Norway has meant that clubs must show a greater responsibility in trying to cheer people up with entertaining football.

"That's the way we see it and the way we want to play it. Villa took maximum points off us last season but now we're after revenge and in the mood to do something about it."



Villa's Allan Evans hammers the winner in last season's derby clash at St. Andrews.



"WHEN I step out on the park, I just don't want to lose. I hate losing. If we lose it annoys me, to say the least. It takes a lot out of me. That's why I get so keyed up at matches, and that's why I talk and shout a lot, trying to get everybody in the right place and doing their job. They might think I'm giving them stick, but it's for their sake as well as mine, because I really want to win that game. Maybe that's why I've always responded well to the boss, because he's not the best of losers either. He hates defeat as much as I do."

The words express the attitude of Kenny Burns, one of the most determined competitors in the British game. And the defeat-hating boss that he mentions is, of course, Brian Clough — the man who helped wild and wayward Burns to become the rock-solid tower of strength at the heart of a European Champion defence. SHOOT asked Kenny to look back briefly at the decisive moments in his career and here is what the Forest and Scotland star told us:

Clough's threat 'IF YOU DON'T YOU'RE

¶ I suppose certain moments have been decisive in my career, but you don't always realise at the time. I mean, I started playing at a primary school in Glasgow, then a group of friends formed a Boys' Club team that started to do well.

We won a lot of trophies in three or four years until we all began to go our different ways. I played a lot of youth football, and then came the important moment when I signed for Glasgow Rangers.

I didn't last long at Ibrox. It wasn't really a case of me leaving Rangers — they'd just had enough of me. They didn't reckon I was good enough anyway.

Nowadays I can look back and realise I was a tearaway who

*In attack for
Birmingham against
Everton's Howard
Kendall.*



posed problems for the club. It was a kick in the teeth for me, but I was still determined to make the grade in football, so I just gritted my teeth and got on with the job.

Luckily I was given a chance at Birmingham, and I settled in quickly. Then moving to Nottingham was another real turning point.

Peter Taylor took a chance on signing me, because I think he'd only seen me play once for Scotland. What's more, I think I was playing in midfield. But he decided I could do a job at Forest, and that was that.

The funny thing is I never specialised in any one position until I was at Birmingham. I used to play midfield or up front.

to Burns MAKE IT HERE FINISHED!'

Another funny thing was when I arrived at Birmingham I had to play in a trial game against their youth side, marking a player called Trevor Francis!

I did quite well, and they signed me! Anyway, it was Freddie Goodwin who just said to me one day "Do you fancy playing centre-half?" I said I didn't mind, and I had a try-out that Wednesday in the third team.

The following Saturday I made my debut in the first team at centre-half.

Up to that point I'd been mostly in midfield or up front. I remember playing alongside Trevor for one season, and we scored about 40 goals between us.

No exception

I think it is true that Cloughie has changed me. I am a different person these days. I think a lot of people are a bit wild when they're young, and I was no exception.

A lot of lads just tend to be like that. Luckily I was still young when I arrived in Nottingham — young enough to change my ways. I've matured here, I've really grown up and I'm a lot more level-headed.

The boss' system was basically very simple, but it worked. He just told me: "This is your last go. If you don't make it here, you're finished."

Also, I don't like paying fines! My temperament was hitting me in the pocket too, you know.

But let's be honest, apart from that, I came into a good team — which was also very important for me. And we got off to a great start.

We won the League and we played good football. Every time

we went out, we seemed to play well and win, and this gave a calmness and confidence that I'd never known before.

We had a remarkable run of 42 games without defeat, and I can't ever see that record getting beaten. That was unbelievable.

In my career, I suppose I've always been trying to prove a point. We did it in the League and suddenly we were in Europe. We had to win against some of the best teams on the Continent. And we did.

We beat teams like Ajax, Cologne and Hamburger SV and we were European Champions for two consecutive years.

It gave me confidence and pride in the football we were playing. I'm sure my team-mates felt the same — it gave us the conviction that we were playing football the right way.

We were enjoying the game and

Burns is desperate to make a return to the Scottish national side in time for next year's World Cup Finals (below). Beating Hamburger SV in the 1980 European Cup Final was the highlight of Kenny's career so far (right).

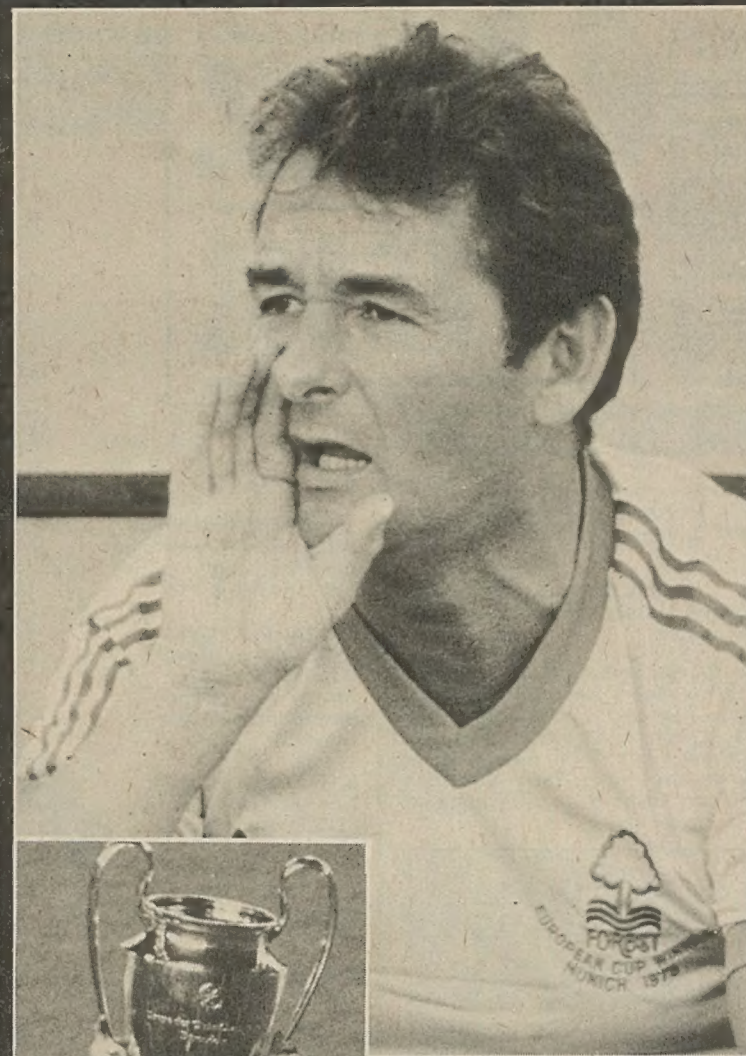


winning, so we felt proud of what we were doing.

As a result, I'm sure I'm a much better player now. There's no substitute for experience against top teams, and that's what I have been getting since I came to Nottingham.

Of all our European matches, maybe that Final against Hamburger SV in Madrid was my highlight because I had a good game all round. In the air, on the ground... I marked well. I felt I did well and it was great that it was one of those games when everybody was watching.

The happiest feeling I get from



I'd dearly like to get back in the Scotland side and represent my country in next year's World Cup.

I've missed a couple of games, but I like to think the boss knows what I can do and he can count on me to produce the goods.

If I didn't want to be in Spain next year, I'd be wasting my time playing football — it's a question of pride quite apart from all the financial and other aspects.

This could be a good season at Forest, too. I think we could achieve something in the League. I hope for his sake and for ours that things work out really well for Justin Fashanu — he could make a big difference to us once he's settled in.

Spoilt

Possibly all the success we've had here in recent years has spoilt us, but we're determined to win something.

For me, that's what football is all about, and I like to think I'm a winner. The League is our top target, with the Cup a bonus.

I don't anticipate having any troubles with referees — they're just an occupational hazard! No, seriously, I get on very well with most referees these days. They know I like talking and most of them just talk back — except one or two of the less experienced ones.

You know the bookmakers are still quoting us at 12-1 for the title? If I were you, I'd have a little flutter on Forest.

playing football is when we keep a clean sheet and we win. That's why I've been happy at Forest, because we've done that regularly. We started conceding silly goals last season and hence our disappointing campaign.

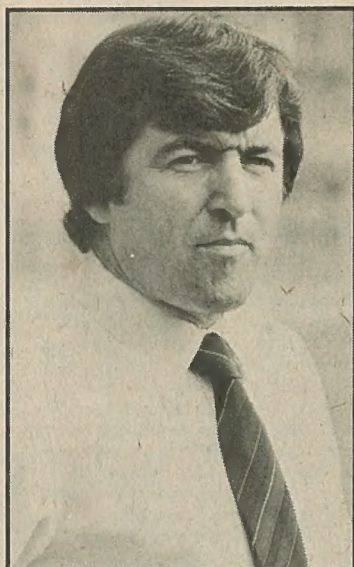
Another low point in my career was when I played for Scotland in the last World Cup. We failed to live up to expectations, as everybody knows. The worst part for me was being involved in some bad goals conceded. When we let in a soft goal it affects me badly. It's an insult. It's a feeling like grim death when we start to make mistakes in our own penalty-area.

TAKE A BREAK IT'S

QUIZ TIME

MANAGERS

1. Before taking charge of Aston Villa in June, 1974, Ron Saunders was manager of which League club?
2. Who was boss of Bristol City before Bobby Houghton was appointed?
3. Queens Park Rangers have had ten managers since the last War. Dave Mangnall, Jack Taylor, Alec Stock, Tommy Docherty, Les Allen, Gordon Jago, Frank Sibley, Steve Burtenshaw and Terry Venables (below) are nine . . . can you name the other one?



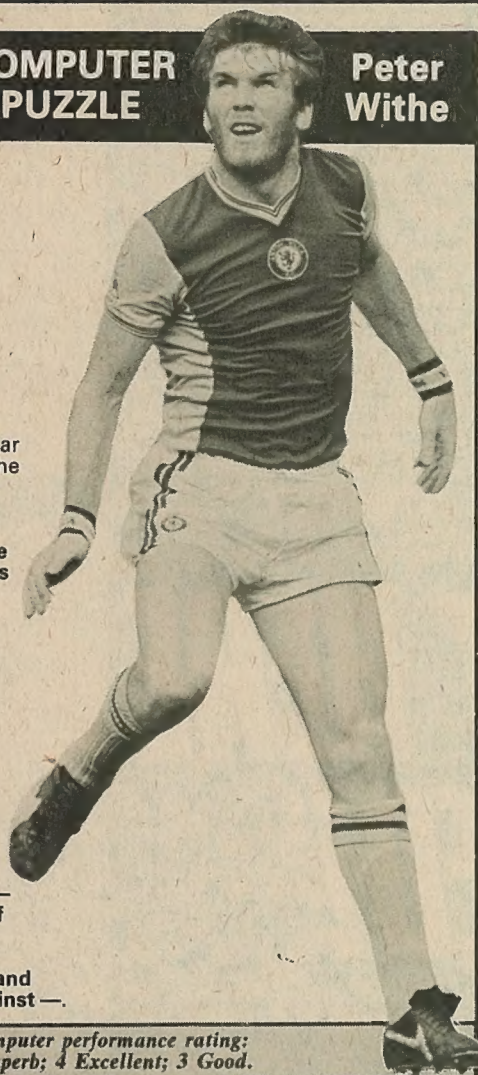
4. Former Liverpool star Peter Cormack is manager of which Scottish Premier Division club?
5. Sunderland boss Alan Durban took over as manager of Stoke City in February, 1976, 1977 or 1978?

ON THE BALL ANSWERS

ACROSS: (1) Alb. (3) Aleksic. (7) Advises. (9) Ian. (10) Joe. (11) Glenn Hoddle. (14) Worthington. (17) Lee. (18) Era. (19) Replays. (21) Stanley. (23) His.
DOWN: (1) Arena. (2) Bus. (3) Among. (4) Irish. (5) Bends. (6) Vie. (8) Donaghy. (10) Jaw. (12) Eye. (13) Other. (15) Islet. (16) Nervy. (17) Lax. (20) Soles. (22) Ash.

COMPUTER PUZZLE

Peter Withe



Programme this star player by plugging the gaps in his career.

1. He began his League career with —, where he played 3 League games but failed to score.
2. After further games with Barrow, Arcadia Shepherds (South Africa), Wolves and Birmingham he was transferred to —.
3. He was then sold to Newcastle for around £225,000 in August, —.
4. In May, 1980 Aston Villa paid a club record — to secure the services of Withe.
5. He made his full England international debut against —.

Computer performance rating:
5 Superb; 4 Excellent; 3 Good.

WORLD CUP

England, Scotland, Wales and the Republic of Ireland were all involved in World Cup qualifying games recently. Can you answer the following questions about the games?

1. Peter Barnes and Peter Withe were used as second-half substitutes by England manager Ron Greenwood. Who did they replace?
2. Was Norway's 2-1 victory the first, second or third time that they had beaten England in full internationals?
3. Scotland won 2-0 against Sweden at Hampden Park. Joe Jordan and John Robertson (right) with a penalty were the goalscorers. Was Kenny Dalglish, Davie Provan or Andy Gray tripped in the area for the penalty?
4. Wales conceded their first World Cup goals when they lost 2-0 to Czechoslovakia in Prague. Who was the unfortunate Welsh star who put through his own-goal to give the Czechs the lead?
5. The Republic of Ireland gained a creditable 2-2 draw with Holland. It was their second clash in the qualifying group . . . how many points did Eire take from the Dutch?



PRESENT STARS

1. Arsenal recently paid around £80,000 to Sunderland for the services of which striker?
2. A few days later an Arsenal star was on his way to Brighton. Can you name him?
3. Former Southampton goal-keeper Terry Gennoe is now playing for which club?
4. John Wark, Arnold Muhren or Alan Brazil was responsible for missing a penalty for Ipswich Town in their First Division game at Old Trafford this month?



5. On September 5th, three players scored hat-tricks in the First Division. Can you name the trio?

TRUE OR FALSE?

1. Bobby Murdoch is the eighth Middlesbrough manager since the War.
2. Mansfield Town play their home Third Division games at Field Mill.
3. Scottish First Division side Falkirk are nicknamed The Bairns.
4. Brighton's Mike Robinson (above) began his League career with Preston.
5. Ayr United have never won the Scottish Second Division Championship.

ANSWERS

MANAGERS: 1. Manchester City; 2. Alan Dicks; 3. Dave Sexton; 4. Partick; 5. 1978.
WORLD CUP: 1. Barnes for Glenn Hoddle and Withe for Paul Mariner; 2. First; 3. Andy Gray; 4. Goalkeeper Dai Davies; 5. Three.
COMPUTER PUZZLE: 1. Southampton; 2. Nottingham Forest; 3. 1978; 4. £500,000; 5. Brazil.
PRESENT STARS: 1. John Hawley; 2. Steve Gattling; 3. Blackburn Rovers; 4. Wark; 5. Arthur Graham (Leeds), Ian Wallace (Nottingham Forest) and Cyrille Regis (WBA).
TRUE OR FALSE: 1. True; 2. False — they are in the Fourth Division; 3. True; 4. True; 5. False — they have won it on six occasions.

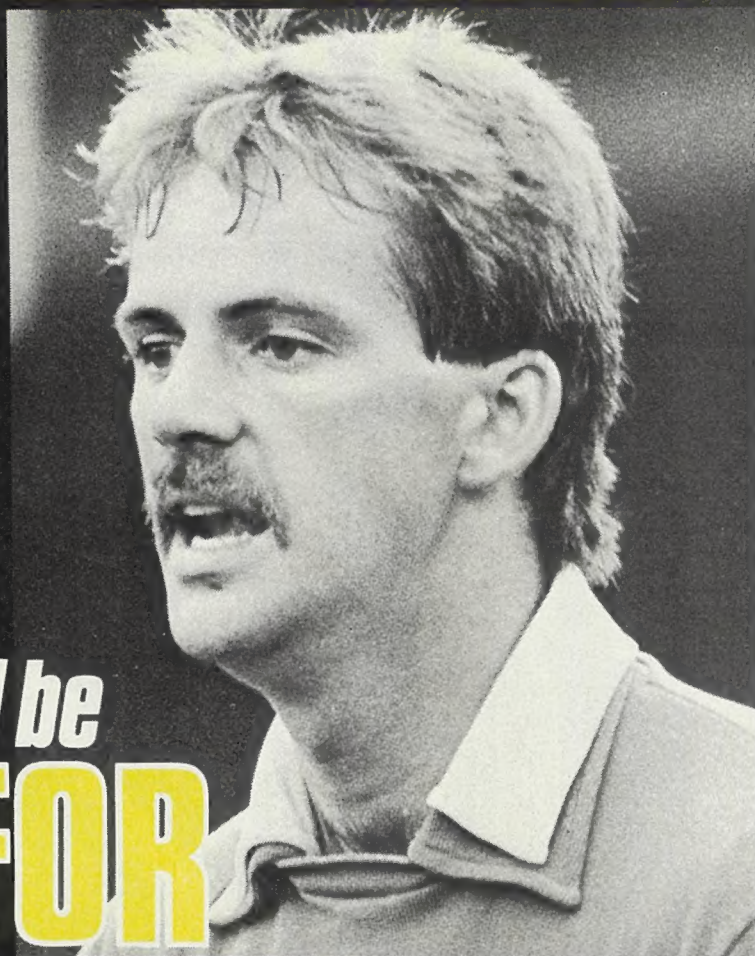
BAILEY LUKIC WOODS...

It is somewhat ironic that a player who has never been selected to play for his country at any level should feel a deep sense of lasting gratitude to the national manager. But such is the case with Stoke City goalkeeper, Peter Fox.

The 24-year-old Scunthorpe-born Fox believes that Ron Greenwood played a major part in his development as a player... and wants to repay that debt by impressing Greenwood sufficiently to earn a place in one of the England squads.

"I had my own notions about what it required to be a goalkeeper," said Fox, "but they were soon corrected when I spent a month on loan from Sheffield Wednesday at West Ham.

"I came under the wing of former Hammers' keeper Ernie Gregory, and by the time he had finished with me I realised that there was so much more to the



It could be FOX FOR ENGLAND!

position than shot-stopping. He made me aware of my tactical responsibilities, working with my defenders, quick distribution, angles, anticipation — in fact he gave me a whole new outlook on the game.

"Then Ron Greenwood, who was manager at the time, took me to one side and advised me to spend some time playing in the United States. So I joined Team Hawaii, now known as Tulsa Roughnecks, and that experience proved priceless.

"Now I am determined to show him that the help I received at Upton Park, and the advice he gave me, were all worthwhile."

Fox began his career when he left Highridge Comprehensive School, Scunthorpe, and found the scouts following up their earlier impressions of his performances for the county side.

He opted for Sheffield Wednesday, but in six years at Hillsborough made only 49 League appearances.

"Things began well," he recalled: "and I was selected to travel

with the England Under-18 side for the mini World Cup. But John Middleton of Nottingham Forest was first choice in goal, and that is the only experience I have ever had of international selection.

"After my spell with West Ham and Hawaii, I became unsettled at Wednesday. Meanwhile Alan Durban, then in charge at Stoke, came looking for a 'keeper, and I eventually joined City in 1978. Roger Jones was first choice, but I worked hard to earn my place and appreciate what it takes to stay in the side.

Succeed

"I see Manchester United's Gary Bailey, Leeds United's John Lukic and Norwich's Chris Woods making great progress as the goalkeepers most likely to succeed Ray Clemence, Peter Shilton and Joe Corrigan. But I am determined to fight for the chance to show what I can do.

"Unfortunately, I played a poor game when Ron Greenwood last saw me — against Everton last season — and I can only hope that

he was not too put off!"

Stoke's impressive start to the season had a lot to do with the consistency and ability of Fox. Voted Stoke's Player of the Year last season, he is very popular with the fans and is now oozing confidence.

"We are playing well this season. We still have one or two small problems to sort out, but we have players with great experience plus a lot of young lads, such as Adrian Heath and Lee Chapman, bubbling with talent.

"All the players are aware of the need to lose our reputation of being a defensive side. I admit we were probably feeling frightened of some teams last season, and as a result gave them too much credit before the kick-off, but that attitude is gone.

"The local folk still talk about the League Cup winning side of 1972, and I am convinced that if we had a good Cup run they would pack the place. That's why we hope that Richie Barker can do for us what he helped do for Wolves.

"He is a positive and determined man. Already we are aware of his rules and the way he wants things done. He wants them done with a bit of style and positive attitude.

"If I can maintain my form while we make a real mark this season I hope Ron Greenwood will have another glance in my direction."

NEXT WEEK...



JUSTIN FASHANU

Nottingham Forest's exciting new £1million striker, joins SHOOT'S UNBEATABLE team of star-writers. Read the first of his outspoken columns...

THE GOOD and BAD of Arsenal. A Special Report on The Gunners and why they haven't found success in recent seasons.

JOE JORDAN v. LIAM BRADY — their first clash in the Italian League. Big Joe sets the scene.

Why KEVIN can be premium BOND.

AND MORE EXCLUSIVE NEWS AND VIEWS FROM RAY WILKINS: GARY SHAW and DANNY McGRAIN.

League Cup Second Round Preview

IN COLOUR... the UP-TO-DATE Liverpool team group + Frankie Gray (Leeds) + Leighton James (Swansea) + Frank Stapleton (Man. United) + Derby County team + Super Focus on Russell Osman (Ipswich).

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Super Focus

ALAN KENNEDY LIVERPOOL

FULL NAME: Alan Philip Kennedy
BIRTHPLACE: Sunderland
BIRTHDATE: 31st August 1954
HEIGHT: 5ft 9½ins
WEIGHT: 11st 8lbs
MARRIED: No
CAR: Datsun Bluebird
PREVIOUS CLUB: Newcastle United
NICKNAME: Barney
FAVOURITE NEWSPAPER: Daily Telegraph
FAVOURITE PLAYER: My brother Keith, who plays for Bury
A PLAYER FOR THE FUTURE: Sammy Lee (because he thinks he hasn't made it yet)
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAMS: Newcastle and Bury
FOOTBALL HERO OF CHILDHOOD: George Best
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Motor racing and golf
OTHER SPORTS PEOPLE YOU MOST ADMIRE: Sebastian Coe and Steve Ovett
YOUR BEST EVER ALL-TIME XI: Banks, Kaltz, Beckenbauer, Moore, Breitner, Peters, Bobby Charlton, Brady, Best, Dalglish, Pele
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: Scoring the only goal in the 1981 European Cup Final
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Being injured after being selected for the England squad during the 1974-75 season
FRIENDLIEST AWAY FANS: Travelling Liverpool fans
BEST STADIUM PLAYED IN: Wembley



Middle distance ace Steve Ovett.

FAVOURITE FOOD AND DRINK: Steak and chips, lager shandy
MISCELLANEOUS LIKES/DISLIKES: Cars/Foul mouthed people
FAVOURITE SINGERS: Barbra Streisand and Eagles
FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: James Bolam and Barbra Streisand
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: California
FAVOURITE TV SHOW: When The Boat Comes In
BEST FILM SEEN RECENTLY: Being There
FAVOURITE ACTIVITY ON DAY OFF: Relaxing in solarium
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: Mum and dad for encouragement and the staff at Newcastle and Liverpool
SUPERSTITIONS: Running on to the pitch third from last
PRE-MATCH MEAL: Fish
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: England Under-23 and B caps
PERSONAL AMBITION: To be healthy and happy
IF NOT A PLAYER, WHAT JOB WOULD YOU DO? No idea
CAREER AFTER PLAYING: I'll know when I've finished playing
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? The Royal Family



Alan's European Cup-winning goal against Real Madrid.

Alan Kennedy

SHOOT!